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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you attended or do you plan to attend the public hearings being held to solicit opinions on the Interior Department's recommendation to grant status to long-term alien workers?

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INSIDE



Kapiti Ice Cream

Ice cream lovers may now indulge in the newest frozen decadent treat to hit the stores on Saipan.

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Deadly Typhoon

The first typhoon of the season killed at least 26 people in the Philippines.

ASIA...Page 25



Reunited!

Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston are back together and recently got engaged.

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Govt employees to get paid today. **PAGE 2**

3 schools ready for full-time kindergarten in September. **PAGE 5**

Tinian commissioners don't want further cuts in \$75K salary

»**Mayor: Without pay cuts, Tinian revenues will only be used to pay commissioners**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control

Commission is reinstating each commissioner's full annual salary of up to \$75,000 despite a request from Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz to continue

the cuts due to insufficient government funds to meet payroll and basic operating expenses.

The commission's decision comes at

a time when Tinian cannot even pay its nurses, its vendors and implement its other programs, including medical assistance.

Dela Cruz told other island leaders
See **TINIAN** on Page 4

NMI, 9 states back Arizona immigration law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has joined nine U.S. states in filing a legal brief supporting Arizona's controversial immigration law.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Attorney General Edward Buckingham approved supporting the brief filed by Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox.

"Buckingham approved joining in support of the local law regarding immigration enforcement. We support it," Demapan said.

See **NMI** on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

Brief for 9 states backs Arizona immigration law. **Page 24**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

SUMMER CAMP

Children taking part in the Karidat House of Manhoben's 2010 Youth Summer Program show their art work—a paper plate wall pocket—right after taking an arts and crafts class under Dora Ada, center, at the Manhoben Center in Chalan Kanoa yesterday morning. The July 15 to Aug. 26 summer program aims to involve children who are 6 to 17 years old in skills development classes including canoeing, bead making, ukulele playing, swimming, bowling, volleyball and basketball.

DPH's Brostrom to move off-island

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director the Division of Public Health, is expected to resign from his post after nearly a decade

of working at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Although Brostrom is currently off-island, his colleagues at CHC are already expecting his departure by month's end.

See **BROSTROM** on Page 4



Man dies after scuba diving

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 43-year-old Filipino man died Wednesday after scuba diving outside the reef of Tanapag Lagoon on Tuesday night.

Acting police spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday that the victim was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center on Wednesday at 5:01am.

Tarkong withheld the name of the victim.

See **MAN DIES** on Page 4

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Govt employees to get paid today

Thousands of government employees will receive their salaries this afternoon, but only through paper checks and not electronic transfer, press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday.

"Payroll will once again be issued as paper checks, with the same procedures that were observed for the previous two payrolls. Department representatives should be getting the call sometime in the afternoon," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

He said cash collection is "barely enough to meet payroll,"

and not because the Commonwealth Development Authority already remitted \$2 million to the general fund.

On June 18, most government employees had a payless payday due to shortage in cash collection. It was the first payless payday in CNMI history. Only those holding emergency positions like doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters and corrections officers got paid on time.

The government also "barely" made payroll on July 2, through paper checks.

Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, in a separate interview late yesterday afternoon, said he got word that nurses employed by Saipan Employment Agency and Services and assigned at the Tinian Health Center will be paid today.

He, however, said it is unclear whether the payment that these Tinian nurses will receive today will include their delayed wages that were supposed to be given on July 2.

The government needs some \$4 million each payroll. (*Haidee V. Eugenio*)

House, Senate panel OKs separate austerity measures

A House and Senate conference committee finalized yesterday afternoon a report that recommends introduction of revenue generating measures, immediately after both chambers passed the contentious austerity bill that cuts government work hours from 80 to 72.

The conference committee on House Bill 17-45 expressed optimism that the austerity bill, which seeks to cut government spending by at least \$9 million, will pass the House during its rescheduled session on Monday.

The Senate is expected to hold a session later next week.

Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan) austerity bill calls for the shutdown of most government agencies every-other-Friday for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 and for FY 2011.

The conference committee report, however, still lacks one signature and copies have yet to be provided to the media.



Taimanao

"I am crossing my fingers it will pass," said Basa yesterday.

The bill implements a 72-hour government work hour per pay period in FYs 2010 and 2011, except for employees in emergency posts including doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters and corrections officers, as well as those whose positions are federal funded.

Unlike the previous versions, this bill permits paid legal holidays. (*Haidee Eugenio*)

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\$15M tax credit bond for school projects approved

» New junior high school eyed in Koblerville

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education approved Wednesday a \$15-million tax credit bond for school improvements and education leaders are now seeking the Fitial administration's and the Legislature's help to identify the resources that would pay for the bond.

Part of the tax credit bond proposal would fund the construction of another middle school in Koblerville, which requires \$4 million. The proposed Koblerville Junior High School will alleviate overcrowding at Hopwood Junior High.

The two-story single building will be built between Koblerville's elementary and high schools and will have 24 classrooms, a cafeteria, library, central office, reading resource, teacher's lounge, and special education classrooms.

PSS officials said the new school will result in three middle schools on Saipan, with about 500 to 600 students each.

About \$2.4 million of the tax credit bond will be used to build 20 additional classrooms: four at Garapan Elementary School, four at San Vicente Elementary School, three at Dandan Elementary School, three at Koblerville Elementary School, two at Oleai Elementary School, two at Kagman Elementary School, and two at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said about 900 5-year-old children will benefit from the project as the new facilities will be used for the full-time kindergarten program.

"Currently, we can only offer half-day kindergarten services to 600 children. As a result, every year 250 to 300 students enter first grade without the benefit of kindergarten. The lack of early learning opportunities that kindergarten provides places these children at a tremendous disadvantage compared to their classmates who have developed pre-reading, writing and numeracy skills through kindergarten attendance at either public or private schools," PSS said.

Saipan Southern High School will also benefit from the proposed bond because \$960,000 is planned for the construction of eight more classrooms. SSHS has a design capacity of 600 but current enrollment is at 836, resulting in a higher ratio of 32 students per teacher.

Marianas High School will get a new cafeteria, estimated to cost \$1.1 million. Its old cafeteria was built in 1970 and was designed for only 300 students. MHS has over 1,200 students per year.

Gymnasium projects are also planned for SSHS, Chacha Junior High School, and Tinian High School. Estimated cost for these projects is over \$1.2 million.

New classroom buildings for San Vicente Elementary School and Tinian Elementary School were also among the projects proposed for funding by the tax credit bond. Each building will house six classrooms and will cost \$1.6 million, including collateral equipment. Eight new classrooms are also eyed for Dandan Elementary School, worth \$1.3 million.

School window replacements on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are also among the proposed proj-

ects at a cost of \$960,000. PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, and associate commissioner for Administrative Services Peter James Le'au said the proposed tax credit bond is interest-free to the local government.

To make it happen, a joint resolution from the Legislature is required to identify the resources and appropriation that would be used in paying for the principal amount.

Sablan said she is hoping for positive action from both the Fitial administration and the Legislature.

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Women most discriminated class in NMI—EEOC rep

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Women remain the most discriminated class in the CNMI, usually brought about by age, disability or a result of pregnancy conditions, according to a representative of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Honolulu Office.

Factors that contribute to this discrimination problem are particularly evident in labor intensive

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tan Holdings Human Resource director Malou Ernest is awarded her certification as a Global Professional in Human Resources yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. With Ernest are Society for Human Resource Management CNMI president Eric L. Plinske and HR Support, CNMI owner Frank Gibson.



industries, where women perform only menial tasks, said senior trial attorney Gregory L. McClinton of the EEOC

Full 80 hours

Commission chair Francisco M. Borja and four other commissioners wrote to the mayor on Monday, informing him of their decision to reinstate 80 work hours per pay period for all commission employees and commissioners effective "pay period 16 and all succeeding pay periods."

Pay period 16 covers July 4 to July 17.

"Implementation of the directive set forth in this paragraph shall not constitute a waiver of any rights that may exist for the Commission or TCGCC employees to seek recovery from appropriate parties for any loss suffered as a result of the reduction in hours imposed upon them," the commissioners said in their July 12 letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The other commissioners include vice chair Ignacio K. Quichocho, Peter Q. Cruz Jr., Michael H. San Nicolas, and Bernadita C. Palacios.

Two of the commissioners are brothers of two senators in the 17th Legislature.

A casino gaming commissioner is budgeted from \$50,000 to \$75,000 per annum.

The commissioners' salaries are sourced from revenues collected from the casino on island. Since 1998, Tinian Dynasty Casino & Hotel has been the sole casino operator on Tinian.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get further comments from commissioners as of press time yesterday.

Savings

The mayor informed the commission on May 5 that revenue collections were insufficient to meet payroll and asked the commission to implement immediate austerity measures by cutting work hours.

Saying he's aware that he does not have the authority to implement payroll cuts, he requested the commission to implement a 20 percent cut in work hours but only for employees who earn over \$30,000 a year.

This will spare the inspectors and administrative staff additional financial burden, he said.

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission agreed to implement the work hour cuts.

But the mayor said it is unfortunate that the commission decided to implement the work hour cuts to all commission employees.

Dela Cruz said although the 20 percent cut in hours resulted in a savings

Honolulu Office

During yesterday's meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management at Pacific Islands Club, McClinton noted that the discrimination against pregnant women who are contract workers is a frequent problem that will "not go away or change."

The EEOC is in charge of implementing federal laws that prohibit discrimination against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetic information.

McClinton also revealed that a vast majority of the Title VII cases in the CNMI concerns discrimination against sex, followed closely by national origin. According

of \$14,000 per pay period, "the revenue collection for the past few months was still insufficient to meet payroll and basic operating expenses as evidenced by the delayed payroll in June and the anticipated delayed payroll for the last pay period in July."

The mayor said in an effort to prioritize payroll, he "discontinued public programs to include medical assistance, departmental assistance, and beautification projects."

He also "discontinued annual leave lump sum payments, travel, professional services, and an office lease agreement."

"Even with those cuts, the municipality is still unable to pay debt inherited from the past administration to include NMI Retirement [Fund] contributions and payables to National Office Supply, NMC, FPA, IT&E, and Michelle Corporation," Dela Cruz told Hofsneider and Manglona.

The mayor said the commission's decision to reinstate the work hours "will subject the municipality to considerable unfunded liability and the municipality will incur a deficit for FY 2010."

He said he has done and will continue to do everything within his authority not to burden the municipality with additional debt.

Dela Cruz said he will continue to work hour cuts with his staff and the Municipal Treasury, and will continue to reduce expenses.

"However, the TCGCC's decision to reinstate work hours now shifts the burden to the Tinian Delegation and Municipal Council and immediate action must be taken to ensure that the municipality is not burdened with debt it cannot pay," the mayor added.

Pursuant to law that created the TCGCC, the five members that make up the commission are appointed by the mayor and serve a term of six years.

Each commissioner is limited to serve only one term at the commission and is entitled to receive compensation of not more than \$75,000 annually.

So far, only one casino operates on Tinian—the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. All other investors have yet to actually build casinos or scrapped their plan altogether.

Neo Gold Wings Paradise, for example, abandoned its estimated \$1 billion casino project on Tinian. Now, the Department of Public Lands is pursuing legal action to collect at least \$78,470.31 in unpaid monthly land lease and interest charges from the company.

to McClinton, there are 48 pending sex discrimination cases with their office in fiscal year 2010, a slight increase from last year's 43 cases.

Discrimination cases against national origin were widespread particularly during the garment industry boom on Saipan, he said.

HR global professional

During the meeting, the SHRM also recognized one of its members for having been certified as an HR global professional.

Malou Ernest, human resource director of Tan Holdings, was awarded her certification as a Global Professional in Human Resources from the HR Certification Institute.

Ernest joins more than 900 HR pro-

fessionals worldwide that earned the GPHR certification after successfully taking a comprehensive examination early this year.

A GPHR certification denotes that an individual has the theoretical wisdom and hands-on experience in international human resource management, demonstrating a solid background in professional human resources.

CLARIFICATION

In the story about the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. suing two firms for unpaid bills published on Wednesday, R&C Corp. and BJF Inc. were named as defendants. Bertha Sablan, an accounting manager of R&C Tours Saipan Inc. has clarified that R&C Corp. is not related to their company.

BROSTROM

From Page 1

Deputy secretary for Public Health John Tagabuel confirmed Brostrom's plans yesterday, but said the physician has yet to submit his resignation letter.

"Dr. Brostrom has worked and contributed positively to the CNMI and DPH for almost a decade. At present, he is taking his annual leave and is presently off-island. [However], he has verbally expressed and informed senior DPH management that he's vying and applying for job vacancies outside the CNMI," said Tagabuel.

He said Brostrom has informed them that he has gotten some positive responses in his job hunt.

NMI

From Page 1

Since it is a legal brief, Demapan said the administration has no other statement other than what has been filed.

Cox, who is reportedly running for governor this year, led the chief legal officers of nine states and the CNMI in filing the brief.

Besides the CNMI and Michigan, other states joining the brief are Florida, Alabama, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia.

The Obama administration's lawsuit in the Phoenix federal court asserts that Arizona's new immigration law, due to take effect July 29, usurps the federal government's "pre-eminent authority" under the U.S. Constitution to regulate immigration.

Obama states that the Arizona law has the potential of violating the rights of innocent American citizens and legal residents, making them subject to possible stops or questioning because of what they look like or how they sound.

"And as other states and localities go their own ways, we face the prospect that different rules for immigration will apply in different parts of the country,

Saipan Tribune learned that Brostrom is planning to relocate to Hawaii.

Brostrom, along with Dr. Dorina Fred of Chuuk, was recognized last year by the U.S. Department of Insular Affairs for his tuberculosis work in the Pacific region. The two were lauded for their valuable assistance and contribution to Pacific communities, specifically for their work on tuberculosis.

According to the OIA Web site, when the Federated States of Micronesia asked for assistance and additional regional support, Brostrom made it his priority to join the local Chuuk TB program and work for the outbreak investigation.

Since that time, Brostrom has returned to Chuuk almost every month to help Fred with treatment of cases and administrative support.

a patchwork of local immigration rules where we all know one clear national standard is needed," Obama said in a recent speech.

In the brief, Cox argued that, like Arizona, the State of Michigan and other states have the power to enforce federal immigration law, provided that the states do not create new categories of aliens or attempt to independently determine the immigration status of an alien.

"This is the regulatory scheme envisioned by Congress—which is one of concurrent enforcement—where the federal government must respond to any inquiry by a state or local government agency seeking to verify the immigration status of any person within its jurisdiction," Cox said.

Cox said by lawsuit, rather than by legislation, the federal government seeks to negate this pre-existing power of the states to verify a person's immigration status and similarly seeks to reject the assistance the states can lawfully provide the federal government.

"That result contravenes Congress' intent of cooperative enforcement and replaces it with a regulatory scheme whereby the federal government may continue to selectively enforce—or as its brief suggests, selectively not enforce—the laws enacted by Congress," he said.

MAN

From Page 1

tim pending notification of next of kin. A KSPN report last night quoted the Philippine Consulate General identifying the victim as Rony Cruz. He is reportedly an employee of a fishing company.

Tarkong said that on Wednesday morning the U.S. Coast Guard informed DPS Boating Safety Unit's officer-in-charge Sgt. Bernard Santos about a person who died while scuba diving.

Boating Safety officer Elias Saralu's

investigation showed that the victim went scuba diving outside the Tanapag Lagoon reef on Tuesday at 10pm.

After two dives, the victim complained of headache and showed symptoms of decompression sickness.

His dive partner brought the victim to CHC. The victim was admitted to the emergency room at 12:50am, but was later pronounced dead that morning.

"This case is under investigation. The release of any information will be made available once cleared by the investigating unit and the Commissioner's Office," Tarkong said.

TINIAN

From Page 1

yesterday that Tinian revenues will only be enough to pay the commissioners and commission employees if their work hours are reinstated to 80 per pay period, from 64.

Since May, commissioners and commission employees have been having a 20 percent work hour cut per pay period.

"...At our current level, if the TCGCC reinstates their hours and their payroll is paid in full, 100 percent of the local budget collection will be used to pay their payroll and no funds would be available to pay the Municipal Treasury staff, Mayor's Office operating expenses, or any public programs. I do not believe that this was the intent of our people when they passed the Gaming Act in 1989," Dela Cruz said.

The mayor wrote this in a July 15 letter to Tinian Legislative Delegation chair Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) and Tinian Municipal Council chair Patrick A. Manglona.

Dela Cruz said he does not have authority to implement payroll cuts.

He then sought the help of the delegation and municipal council on the matter.

Hofsneider, when asked for comment yesterday, said he will meet today with the Tinian mayor on the issue, and will also call for a meeting to discuss passing a municipal budget.

Such a local budget could allow for work hour cuts during times of financial stress, he said.

The last time that Tinian had a budget passed was in Fiscal Year 2006, Hofsneider and Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian) said yesterday.

Dela Cruz asked the delegation and the municipal council to call an emergency session to amend the FY 2006 local budget appropriation to implement a 20 percent reduction in work hours for the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission employees.

"If possible, I would like to request that employees receiving less than \$30,000 per year be exempted from the cut," the mayor said in his letter.

When asked for comment yesterday, Dela Cruz said he cannot implement pay cuts but at the same time the municipality needs to cut its expenses.

"I'm caught between a rock and a hard place," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

3 schools ready for full-time kindergarten in September

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said yesterday that three schools are ready to implement full-time kindergarten sessions beginning September, with a class schedule similar to first grade, 7:30am to 2:30pm.

These schools are Tinian Elementary School, Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota and its expanded class in Songsong village, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with two classes on campus.

Sablan said these schools have the classrooms, equipment, and teachers needed to fully implement the full-day session for kindergarten.

The rest of the Commonwealth's public schools will continue to operate their kindergarten program as is—half-day sessions.

"One of the initiatives of the Board of Education is the implementation of a full-time kindergarten program and we're working closely with the schools and the board on how we can enforce it," said Sablan yesterday, adding that

the board's decision came about due to the wide gap in the number of enrollment between kindergarten, Head Start, and first graders.

"Every year there's a gap between the number of enrollees in kindergarten, Head Start, and first grade and we're estimating over 300 kids don't even go to kindergarten, which at present, is implemented on a first-come, first-served basis and not mandatory. The board and the PSS believe in early childhood education and that's why we want to make it available to our children from age 5," she said.

Sablan said PSS needs 22 classrooms for the full-time kindergarten program, 22 full-time classroom teachers, collateral equipment, and instructional materials that will support the curriculum.

"However, we don't have everything at present," she admitted.

The commissioner disclosed that besides the curriculum for the program, the education board has put a policy in place for the kindergarten program.

Sablan said PSS first conducted a feasibility study and

assessment at all its schools prior to submitting the recommendation to the Education Board. Results of the survey among community members indicated the desire to make

the program a regular class for their children.

The second feasibility study conducted by PSS focused on the other requirements for the program such as infrastructure,

personnel, curriculum, as well as policies in place.

Sablan said the realization of full-day sessions in other schools will depend on the funding and resources that

could be identified for the program. Classroom requirements for kindergarten are included in the proposed tax credit bond approved by the Education Board last Wednesday.

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Disciplinary proceedings vs Govendo starts at high court



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Q: How do I get home health services?

A: Typically your doctor would recommend that you get home health care, however if you have a skilled nursing or therapy need and aren't well enough to go out and get those needs fulfilled you would typically qualify for the home health benefit. Call your doctor or Pacific Home Health Care, LLC. at 234-CARE and we can typically advise if you qualify or not.

Q: Is my physician still involved with my care?

A: Yes, your physician manages all your care while in home health. The home health staff communicates and coordinates your care with your doctor via phone or faxed memo/notes.

Q: What makes Pacific Home Health Care, LLC., better or different from other agencies?

A: Pacific Home Health Care, LLC., staff practice under the guidelines of consistency: One client - the same staff members throughout the course of care, reliability, dependable trustworthy staff that can be counted on to do what is ordered by your physician, and presence - fully attending to the needs of the client from a holistic perspective.

Q: Who pays for home health care?

A: If you require the skilled services of a nurse, physical therapist or speech therapist and you have Medicare Part A, then Medicare pays for home health care as long as you meet the criteria. Additionally many Medicare Advantage plans cover these services but require some co-pay level, check your plan documents.

By FERDIE DE LATORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court heard arguments yesterday in the disciplinary proceedings against Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo and placed under advisement his request for summary disposition and to allow video coverage of the proceedings.

The case arose from a November 2008 decision issued by Superior Court associate judge Ramona Manglona where she cited Govendo for allegedly violating the "principles of decorum and temperance" by making inappropriate statements during a family law case against Roger Castillo, a domestic violence suspect.

Investigating judge Richard Benson had stated that Govendo has on several occasions used racially insensitive language. Bradley said Govendo went too far in his statements in the Castillo case. He said Govendo needs to know that some words could offend any court observer.

At yesterday's hearing, special ethics prosecutor Bruce A. Bradley said he has nothing to prove because upon review of the charging document, Govendo expressly admits one to five paragraphs of the complaint.

Bradley said Govendo repeatedly stated that he denies the complaint but admits the facts.

Bradley said the judge crossed over the line and that it is up to the Supreme Court panel—Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, associate justice Alejandro Castro, and associate justice pro tempore Edward Manibusan—to establish what that line is.

Bradley said Govendo was certainly frustrated with Castillo's beating and threatening of his wife but there is still a line that judicial officers should not cross.

"You don't just grab the throat and say I'll deport you if you don't shape up," Bradley said.

Bradley said investigating judge Benson listened to the whole tape of the proceedings and determined that Govendo

went too far in his statements in the Castillo case. He said Govendo needs to know that some words could offend any court observer.

In his argument yesterday, Govendo said: "I am a very, very good judge, performing a difficult job as family court judge."

Govendo said he just wants to explain the context why he made the statements, hence his request for the Supreme Court to provide him a hearing.

"This is the only disciplinary hearing in this court. I am a judge who is asking for a day in court," Govendo said.

At one point, Demapan asked Govendo if he admits to the statements he made in court in the Castillo proceedings.

Govendo replied he absolutely admits them, but that those statements are not in violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct. "I made the statements. I will explain why I made those statements," he said, adding that his statements may be inappropriate but that's not necessarily a violation of the Judicial Code of Ethics.

Govendo said the factual issue is the reason why he made such statements, as he has a story about Castillo. "I have a duty to protect the victim," he said.

Demapan asked Govendo if, in calling Castillo "muchacho," a judge is being fair.

Govendo said *muchacho* is a Spanish word for boy. He said he needed to talk tough with Castillo, who repeatedly disobeyed court orders.

Manibusan pointed out, though, that the definition of *muchacho* in Chamorro is "slave, you are a slave."

Govendo said life-threatening situations are placed in front of him as a family court judge. He cited a murder case involving a Filipino couple in San Jose. Castillo allegedly cut out the article and showed it to threaten his wife.

Demapan intervened: "But we're judges. We're supposed to be patient. We're supposed to listen. If we want to put them in jail, we put them in jail."

Manibusan then asked why Govendo didn't do what he was supposed to do: put Castillo in jail.

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Kilili acts to make school meals healthier

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Students in the Northern Mariana Islands will be eating healthier school meals under provisions being added to the child nutrition act by the House Committee on Education and Labor. The Committee approved yesterday an amendment by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) that will help pay the extra cost for more nutritious school lunches in the NMI and other non-mainland parts of the U.S.

"The Committee is extending these important programs that make sure students are fed during the school day," Sablan said. "We are also looking at ways to encourage school districts to make meals healthier."

"One way the bill does that is by offering an extra six cents per meal, if schools serve meals

that meet new nutritional standards to be set by the Department of Agriculture.

"But an extra six cents may not be enough in the Northern Marianas or Hawaii or Alaska, because of shipping costs and other factors."

"So I offered an amendment that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to increase the payment for us to take into account those higher costs."

"That will make healthier foods more of an option for our schools, even if healthier foods cost a little more."

"It will also allow our own farmer's to earn a little bit more when they sell fresh and nutritious local fruits and vegetables to the school meal program."

Sablan's amendment was unopposed and was incorporated



Sablan

into H.R. 5504, the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act, by voice vote.

The Committee worked on the bill yesterday and will return to it again today.

In addition to making meals healthier, the Committee wants to extend meal programs into the

summer and school holidays.

"It's important to make sure our children have the food they need every school day, so they can have energy and be alert and get the most out of their classes," said Sablan.

"But beyond that it's important that growing children have enough food every day—whether they are in school or not."

"Because their bodies and brains are growing and developing. Without adequate nutrition that growth can't happen as it should."

"I would very much support extending our meal programs for students in the Northern Mariana Islands into summers and school breaks."

"The least we can do for our children is to make sure they have enough to eat." (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 16, 1999

Tourism pitch in China backed

The chair of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee yesterday pressed Commonwealth officials to begin talks with Washington in efforts to get its green light on a plan by the Marianas Visitors Authority to entice tourists from the mainland China. Rep. Oscar M. Babauta called for support on the MVA decision to proceed with a tourism campaign in the neighboring communist country despite the restrictions imposed by the Department of Labor and Immigration on its citizens. He said the move is very timely in view of the thinning number of tourists from the traditional markets such as Japan and Korea, whose battered economies have affected spending habits of the people.

Unpaid contribution stands at \$21M

Despite payment of an average of \$1.6 million each month to the Retirement Fund to settle its burgeoning debt, the government has yet to diminish the \$21 million it owed the agency since last year. Acting Retirement Fund Administrator Fred Camacho said the payment is not enough to reduce the unpaid contributions by the government as the monthly check represents current obligations. "They need to pay us a little more if they want to pare down the \$21 million debt," he said. But Mike Sablan, special advisor for finance and budget, stressed the administration is still reviewing its records whether the government actually has owed the Retirement Fund that much money since January 1998.

July 16, 2001

Mobil vows to share with cleanup costs

Mobil Oil Marianas Islands Inc. has requested the environmental consultants in charge of remediation work at the Saipan International Airport to continue cleanup action in relation to the January 2001 jet fuel leak. Mobil Oil Marianas leases facilities at the Saipan airport from the Commonwealth Ports Authority in order to supply the airport with jet fuel. In January 2001, it was discovered that around 6,000 gallons of fuel had leaked from a tank as a result of a faulty gasket. As the gasket and equipment are owned and maintained by the CPA, Mobil has no legal liability for equipment failure.

4-year low in Customs revenue looms

The Division of Customs reported user's fee and excise tax collections totaled \$46 million during the first nine months of the fiscal year—a figure that is generally lower compared to the \$48 million generated during the same period a year ago. If the trend continues, Customs Director Jose C. Mafnas is afraid the division may only match the \$61 million revenues posted in fiscal year 1997. "We will be down probably by \$3 million after this fiscal year is through compared to the \$64 million we collected last year," Mafnas said. For the first three quarters of the fiscal year, the customs division collected some \$20 million in excise tax and about \$26.7 million in user's fee. This, after the division witnessed a dramatic drop in revenue collections during the months of November, December, January and May.

July 16, 2002

FEMA team to visit Rota

A four-member team from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is set to arrive in Guam on Wednesday and will be swinging by the CNMI on Friday to conduct a preliminary damage assessment on Rota. This is in response to the call of Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona for Gov. Juan N. Babauta to ask President George W. Bush to declare a state of emergency in Rota in the wake of Typhoon Chata'an and the damages the island sustained. "This four-member team will be arriving in the CNMI on, I think, Friday and will be going to Rota to do the preliminary assessment of the damages that were reported in the Mayor's Damage Report," said Babauta yesterday.

Castro vows impartiality

Supreme Court Associate Justice Alejandro Castro dispelled allegations attacking his impartiality as a panel member in the pending Bank of Saipan appellate proceedings, saying he "neither prefer[s] nor disfavor[s] any party or side in this case." The justice made the declaration in response to court-appointed BoS Receiver Randall T. Fennell's motion seeking his disqualification from hearing the petition for writ of mandamus sought by BoS. "To the best of my abilities, I have ruled and will rule as necessitated by the relevant facts and applicable law in this matter, as in all other cases that may come before me," Castro said.

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

New rules give veterans with stress disorder the benefits they deserve

The nature of the wars U.S. troops are fighting has changed, and so too have the wounds of war. The government finally caught up with this reality in one way on Monday when it announced new rules making it easier for veterans to claim federal benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. Previously, vets had to prove that a single combat experience caused their PTSD, but now they may demonstrate that persistent danger and violence may have brought it on. This is a potentially important development for the more than 2 million men and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and particularly so for women, who officially are not assigned to combat roles but in reality often find themselves in the midst of combat or exposed to continuous danger.

The old rules may have worked in conventional conflicts such as World War II and the Korean War, with clear front lines and combatants in uniform, back when most of the wounded died of their battlefield injuries. Or maybe not, since little was known of PTSD then, and society expected soldiers to tough out their troubles in silence. But combat began to change for the American military in Vietnam, and now we know more about its effects.

Today's wars may be fought anywhere at any time, against enemies who might wear civilian dress and suicide belts. Pilots and infantry face danger as before, but increasingly so do cooks, truck drivers, intelligence officers and other personnel who are perhaps serving their fourth or fifth tours. Furthermore, soldiers can make it from Baghdad to the front door back home in as little as 72 hours, sometimes a disturbingly quick transition from life-or-death issues to seemingly mundane civilian concerns. Many return with the symptoms of PTSD — recurrent and intrusive recollections of the war, leading to personality changes, emotional numbing and withdrawal, and often to other problems including drinking, drug abuse and violent behavior.

Not everyone who experiences traumatic events develops the disorder, and those who claim benefits under the new rules still must have a diagnosis from a Veterans Administration doctor, which is why we believe fears that fraud will skyrocket are unfounded. Undoubtedly claims will continue to rise. Thanks to modern medicine, there is a 90 percent survival rate for battlefield injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan, meaning more people are coming home wounded, some of them with concussions and other brain injuries that do not appear until later. A RAND Corp. study estimates that 20 percent of returning military personnel suffer from PTSD. We know they need help, and that help costs money — which is no reason to deny them the help they deserve.

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Police report and due process

We are trained to be respectful of constituted authority. We tend to give the storied hierarchy within public offices their due status. Men and women in uniform, particularly in Micronesia where the Armed Services as a whole is one of the avenues for upward socio-economic mobility (the second is higher education), and we nod our share of respectful recognition and grateful loyalty.

Some goodwill went down the drain Wednesday over a traffic accident outside Hailan Market on Middle Road (Pale Arnold Road). The men in uniform were from the traffic division of DPS on Saipan. This column probably should just be a letter to the editor, or addressed directly to Commissioner Tudela, or Ed Camacho at NMC who trains in police matters, for due process has been a subject of current deliberations as a hallmark of democracy, and this incident has a lot to say about it, or its noticeable absence.

The objective facts: A car I was driving and a van were both parked in front of the Hailan market shortly before 5pm Tuesday. I chauffeured a colleague who went to the store to transact business. Two guys in a fast mobile pace delivered 5-gal bottled water from the van. Watchful and observant as a news writer, I had my car running while waiting. As soon as my party came out and got into the car, I backed out, executing the standard "el" formation (the car is driven straight out and turned perpendicular to the other parked car, parallel to the sidewalk). Just before I was ready to stop to execute the counter turn, I hit something. My rear driver side fender clipped the rear end of the van that was exiting out from the parking lot. Drivers alighted to view damage. My car's position was parallel to the sidewalk; the van was at a 45-degree slant in the parking lot from the sidewalk.

The van driver entered Hailan market while I phoned 911 to request police assistance. On the way to Hailan market a few moments before, we witnessed a collision on Beach Road by the Saipan Grand Hotel that had responding police cruisers, the fire truck, and an ambulance slow down traffic. With the crunched front of the involved pickup in mind, I told the operator that ours was a minor collision but a police report would assist insurance claims.

Beyond the objective level: Two police officers arrived, one was tall and the other height-challenged relative to my 5'4" stature. The Hailan market manager immediately joined the tall one and engaged him in earnest conversation. In turn, I took out the requisite papers (car registration and driver's license) and gave them to the other officer, later known to be PO1 A. Sakisat from the DPS reference card.

The inordinate involvement of the market manager was obvious. I was not privy to their conversation so I assumed he was relaying the van driver's version of the incident. The manager was not a party to the accident, nor did I notice that he even witnessed the event at all. Nevertheless, he was almost livid in his demeanor and an ardent advocate for the van by my reckoning. The tall officer listened.

Officer Sakisat, upon receiving my papers, asked what happened.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



So I proceeded to describe what I remembered. *"I was backing off on the standard 'el' maneuver when the van darted quickly on behind me and we clipped each other's tail end,"* I said, pointing out how the van was positioned, adding that he might be in haste to traverse the parking lot in a diagonal course. Etiquette suggests that we do not create blind spots for other drivers operating vehicles. Darting diagonally behind the car that I was driving, though equipped with backing sensors that sounds an alert of objects behind, did not help the system nor my vision and reflexes.

Immediately, the tall officer's voice of authority interjected and said, *"What diagonal position?"* So I pointed out the state of the cars and their trajectories. *"Are you implying that the other car is at fault?"* he asked with a higher decibel in the tone of his voice.

"No," I said, *"but you could describe the position of the cars in your report!"* The shorter officer did the writing, mostly dictated by the tall officer. I stared mostly at the popped out back fender, figuring when and how I was to relay the incident to the off-island owner. I was not in the best mood to be cordial, so I stopped talking and the officer seemingly lost interest in taking down my statement.

A few minutes later, after all licenses had been taken down, I asked when I might get to see the police report. The tall officer came to me and said: *"Sir, I would like you to know that the report will say you are at fault!"* Now, I do not know where that came from, but my experience has been that an officer in an accident scene takes down verifiable data, describes the state of the location, takes down statements of the involved parties, and if asked, or there's an obvious deduction to be made, the officer would state a professional conclusion in the logic of *"fact 1, 2, 3, and therefore."* The officer did not even bother to give a context before making an in-your-face summary judgment.

I retorted that a police report by my understanding is an objective description of an incident and the judgment of who is at fault is a function of adjudication in a court. That's when I must have gotten the officer's goat, for I got more than an earful on police procedures, functions and roles. *"If we do not say who is at fault, how can cases be settled,"* the officer rationalized. Due process. In a larger sense in our growing democracy, we suffer under the illusion that communication transpires between officials and citizens. I seek enlightenment.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How much yen in a happy hour?

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit *Ed Stephens Jr.* at TropicalEd.com. *Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.*



In July I started off (July 2, "Who's your sergeant?") with an unhappy little tale about a couple of Japanese tourists getting cold-shouldered at a store when they tried to pay in yen. Then on July 9, in "Ed's market data (and yours too)" I mentioned a painless way to get updated yen to dollar rates, along with other juicy financial data. So today we're in good shape to consider how we can offer tourists a better experience, instead of another cold shoulder, if they want to pay in yen.

This is a bigger issue than the mere mechanics of making yen transactions. The big picture is that when it comes to customer service, nothing gets solved spontaneously.

Indeed, if a procedure hasn't been devised for a likely scenario, and if training hasn't been conducted for it, then it's just a failure event waiting to happen.

Maybe it's merely little failure, like alienating a few customers. Maybe it's a medium failure, like getting bad feedback reported

to a tour agent.

Or maybe it's a big failure, like going out of business entirely.

Saipan does, unfortunately, have a number of tallies in all of these categories.

Anyway, here is a generic procedure I long ago drafted for accepting yen for cash transactions:

1. Create a form, by which I mean a simple table, for retail cashiers to fill in when they accept yen. This will, among other things, help the money get reconciled at the end of the day, but for me that's an incidental benefit.

All these items will easily fit on one line: Date, time, amount of yen accepted from customer, exchange rate, amount of dollars correspondingly given to customer, cashier's initials, and customer's initials.

I have a good reason for putting things in that specific order, by the way. So you are welcome to download my form at TropicalEd.com. It's posted in the economics section for your use. I will guarantee availability until the end of July, after which it will be taken down at my whim.

2. Post your yen to dollar rate in plain view by the cash register. As of yesterday, it took 88.5 yen to equal a one Yankee dollar, but, of course, the actual rate you want to offer is up to you. I suggest that merchants update this rate once per day, every morning.

3. If a customer wants to pay for something in yen, then, first of all, leave their yen on the counter, and fill out the aforementioned form. Get the customer's OK for the dollar amount being provided in exchange for the yen. Then take the yen, and count out the dollars and put the dollars on the counter. Let the customer correlate the dollar amount on the form to the dollars that are now on the counter. Then get their scribble ("initials") onto the form.

4. Well, you're already done! Now you're back to an unremarkable dollar transaction, so you simply ring up the sale in dollars. The dollars are already on the counter. Easy.

and shock them all and win the race!
and all their doubts and digs
with awe we'll instantly replace!

They'll call our meteoric rise
an "overnight success"
They won't see all the sacrifice
or months and years of stress

The speeds that we'll attain
and yes, the distances we'll reach
will leave observers guessing
and the critics without speech

With mikes and cameras rolling
and the spotlight in our eye
They'll ask, "So what's your secret?"
and to this we will reply:

Been busy building assets
"stead of looking for a job
Not happy chasing paychecks
so our time no one can rob

Preferred pursuing passion
even if we worked for free
In time the time invested
will pay dividends, you see

While revving, others passed us
Felt like losers, but we found
We made up for it all in time
once spinning wheels touched ground!

So, to all my entrepreneurial friends and those pursuing their passions who feel the same way: Stay focused on your dream! The time you're spending in "creation mode" is an investment in your future. You may not be seeing any immediate rewards, but don't give in to the pressure to conform and run someone else's race. You're on the right track. You'll soon kick up some dust when your wheels touch ground! See you at the finish line!

■■■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Jamaican on Saipan* by Walt Goodridge, may order a copy on jamaicanonsaipan.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

■■■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

*Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (@waltonsaipan).*

When Spinning Wheels Touch Ground

We'll burst out of the gate

It is, of course, possible to also give change in yen, but my goal is to keep things as simple and unambiguous as possible.

After all, any ambiguity on the foreign exchange conversion front will certainly count against you. Many a tourist has taken five steps out of the door, only to receive a pang of doubt about their transaction. If they walk back in the door demanding a recounting of things, you can be assured that nothing good is going to happen.

Heck, I've seen tour agents showing up at stores days after the fact to demand an accounting for things on behalf of their clients. I have a war story about that, which I may relate soon if so moved.

Unfortunately, some customers will try to abuse your goodwill by paying for a token purchase with some huge denomination of foreign currency. Says me: RED FLAG. Also says me: Refuse, one time, politely. If they don't get the point, forget the polite, and throw them out. If you wonder why I have such a strong opinion on this, well, I guess we're up against another war story! But right now it's time for Friday happy hour, so let me try to figure out how much yen it takes to equal a cold one...and I don't mean a cold shoulder.

The role of the board chair

By JANET KING

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Janet King is chairperson of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.



The chair is a board member who is selected among his or her fellow trustees to serve the Northern Marianas College in a leadership capacity. No one individual board member, not even the chair, has more authority than another. Each board member is entrusted by the public to oversee the operations of the college, and each board member has the same rights and responsibilities. The BOR policy sets out the election of the chair (and treasurer) during an organizational meeting in even-numbered years.

I have come to learn that one of the elements of the chair's leadership role among many which are important—facilitation, communication, information, participation, expectation, collaboration—is facilitation. The facilitation process is an important one; that is, through the chair's role as facilitator, the board can achieve success through collaboration. To do this well, a chair has to utilize good communication skills; provide each board member a satisfactory level of information; and encourage active participation in college issues. At the other end, the board members must express their expectations of the chair openly and honestly.

I learned that good communication is a primary duty of the chair, from facilitating discussions in meetings, and articulating the expectations of individual board members to the entire board. I learned that information is a crucial factor, because the chair must be the facilitator of information, and work with board members to ensure that they receive all the facts on an issue, especially when it involves making a decision. I have come to realize that the chair must work very hard to ensure that all members understand the issues before the board by encouraging participation, but even a chair cannot force participation.

My experience has been that an occupationally diverse board like ours is a strength; however, on occasion, a chair also expends a lot of time and energy working with board members to be open and expressive of their thoughts and convictions without fear of criticism, while demonstrating appreciation for active participation.

The chair is a significant responsibility. Each board member's responsibility is important, but the chair's time and energy are more in demand. The chair acts as the "link" between the board and the chair. Therefore, the relationship of the board chair to the president is critical to the president's effectiveness. When the chair supports the president, the president is enabled to project the confidence he or she needs to influence the direction of the institution. Therefore, support, as well as sound advice and even friendship are ideal between the chair and the president.

The chair must be knowledgeable about board governance and leadership in order to be effective in his or her relationship with the president.

The leadership a chair exhibits sets the tone for the role of the board in governance, the effectiveness of the president, and ultimately the success of the institution.

In a few months, NMC will welcome a new president. The new president, with the support of the chair, is going to be primarily responsible for the institution; therefore, the new president and the chair must work closely together, and must work well.

My experience has taught me that leadership is an interaction of the relationship of four variables: the characteristics of the leader; the characteristics of those he or she leads; the characteristics of the organization; and finally, the social, economic and political environment.

Leadership is also "heart." That means it requires real commitment and unwavering perseverance, especially through the toughest times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			
▲ 89° ▾ 79°	▲ 89° ▾ 79°	▲ 85° ▾ 77°	▲ 86° ▾ 77°	▲ 86° ▾ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▾ 79
Palau	Sunny	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▾ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 74
Kosrae	Sunny	▲ 89 ▾ 77
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▾ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▾ 52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▾ 74
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▾ 75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▾ 58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 85 ▾ 68
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▾ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▾ 43
Miami	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 81
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 93 ▾ 78
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 89 ▾ 74
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▾ 56
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲ 80 ▾ 74
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 95 ▾ 74
Salem	Sunny	▲ 82 ▾ 53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▾ 59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▾ 74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 96 ▾ 81

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:20 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.7 Feet
10:31 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
5:14 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet
11:43 PM	Today	High Tide: 2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Today	10:04 AM	10:22 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Saturday	11:02 AM	11:05 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Sunday	11:58 AM	11:50 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Monday	12:55 PM	-
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:51 PM	Tuesday	1:53 PM	12:36 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily
C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily
C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily
DL297 3:20pm 5:55pm Daily
DL289 4:35pm 7:10pm Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640 7:40am 10:20am Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641 6:30am 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:10pm Daily via NRT
DL640/629 7:40am 10:35pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-
Palau
OZ606/703 3:30pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09599/PR111 9:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909 3:05pm 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM
OZ606/723 3:30pm 10:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	D				

Letter to the Editor

Existing law bars bicycles from pathway

I read the article today published in the *Saipan Tribune* titled *Cyclists' group highlights need for awareness campaign on road rules*.

As an advocate of parks and recreation and as a trustee of the Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway, Ltd., I fully support your club's purpose and goals. However, I wanted to bring this public policy to your attention that affects all cyclists and hopefully will be shared with your group and potential cyclists. There's an existing public law that prohibits bicycles at any public pathways, sidewalks, or across a highway upon and along crosswalk when an official sign is posted.

Although our organization wrote a position statement to then governor Juan N. Babauta opposing the measure as a matter of safety for cyclists with recommendations for alternative solution or means to the problem, unfortunately the bill was signed into law by the former governor.

According to the former governor's transmittal letter to the Legislature, "This bill, therefore, will help to guarantee the health and welfare of all persons using this pathway." Furthermore, the transmittal letter goes on to say, "The Administration also notes, however, that when bicyclists are prohibited from using the pathway, they are to use the road shoulder, which presents the possibility of creating a danger to them due to the use of the road by scooters, cars, trucks and other motorized vehicles. Accordingly, I respect-

fully ask the authors of this bill to work with the Administration as soon as practicable to properly address the need for a bicycle path adjacent to Saipan Beach Road Pathway that would be strictly for the use of bicyclists."

Since your group is preparing to educate and make motorist aware of the rights and responsibilities of cyclists using our public highways and streets, I believe your club or group should also educate all cyclists about their responsibilities under PL. 14-13. As a proactive approach, I suggest your group or club should also advocate for a bicycle pathway when a plan arises to design and construct new roads and highways.

Below is the public law information and actual language:

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-13, "To amend Title 9, Division 5, Article 2, Section 5755(b) to include the word pathway; and for other purposes."

Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that several accidents have occurred along Beach Road Pathway due to bicycling. The Legislature further finds that a notice of advisory was issued by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation on November 11, 2003, advising the general public that bicycling at the Beach Road Pathway is prohibited for it poses a threat to children and adults who are jogging or walking.

Section 2. Amendment. Title 9, Division 5, Article 2, Section 5755(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(b) A person may not ride a bicycle upon and along a

sidewalk, pathway, or across a highway upon and along a crosswalk, where the use of bicycles is prohibited by official traffic signs."

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact any of our trustees: Honorable David Wisemen, Martin Duenas, Edward Camacho or myself if you need more information or have any questions about our organization's mission, goals and objectives.

Thomas J. Camacho
Trustee, Friends of the Saipan Beach Pathway, Ltd.

Attention All Employers!

We are students of the Northern Mariana Trade Institute looking for jobs. By attending the institute we are learning how to work and be responsible in the workplace. We have developed a good attitude and work ethic. We need an employer such as you to demonstrate that we can be first rate employees.



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Please give us the chance to prove this. When you need an employee regardless of position:

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Location : SAN JOSE, SAIPAN
Landmark : Right besides Roshi's Store
Room type : 2 BEDROOMS and OFFICE SPACE
Price : \$550.00 From \$400.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, Broad parking space, Spacious yard, Swimming Pool, 24 Hour Water Supply



SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Location : GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to 747 Dining & Bar
Room type : STUDIO-TYPE, and 1 BEDROOM
Price : \$450.00 From \$350.00~
Features : Free Moving Service, Furnished Unit, Back-up Generator, Laundry Facility, 24 Hour Water Supply



ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

Location : PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN
Landmark : Close to Bank of Hawaii
Room type : 2 BEDROOMS AND 3 BEDROOMS
Price : \$1,200.00 From \$950.00~
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Letters to the Editor

Axes to grind

In the CNMI it is very easy to get rid of a college president. If an employee at the NMC is not satisfied with a decision made by the president, all that employee has to do is complain to the leaders and a full-blown investigation and/or oversight hearing will ensue. This practice has resulted in an unstable leadership at the college.

I should know because I was the chair-

man of the Board of Regents when one such witch hunt took place, resulting in the resignation of the president. I vividly remember having to trundle boxes and boxes of documents up to Capitol Hill for the oversight hearing. The Administration and the Board of Regents had to put the oversight hearing at the front burner to the detriment of other, more pressing issues, facing the college at that time.

I am not suggesting that our leaders should not be involved in the affairs of the college, but their involvement should not be, or even perceived to be, micromanaging the institution. After

all, colleges have layers of organizations, each having prescribed authorities in addressing the problems. At NMC there are the student government, the faculty senate, the department chairs, the Board of Regents, and the accrediting commission (WASC).

I sincerely hope that future presidents, if the NMC doesn't close shop, would not have to tiptoe around political mines laid by the people who have an axe to grind.

Fermin M. Atalig

Songsong, Rota

Casino

There are many people talking about the bad economy that we are experiencing. The question is, are they doing anything about it? For me, the only ones doing something about it are the ones that are supporting the casinos here on Saipan. Those who are against casinos are the ones who don't have solutions and are not doing anything about the economic problem. They say that casino is bad but do they really know what they are talking about?

With the economic problems so bad nowadays, how can parents help their children? What about the crimes being committed and on the rise? If this continues, I see something bad is going to happen.

There are many reasons I support casino. When casino comes it will generate more money, create jobs, help the retirement program, support maintenance of the hospital, medical referral, scholarships and many more. Even in Singapore, they accepted the casino because their economy was sinking.

Why can't we do the same?

Right now, there is no casino. Poker is the only one helping. If we have casino it is good for our tourists and other visitors who come to our islands. CUC is very expensive, fuel is very expensive. The business community should not be the only one sustaining and supporting the economy. We need something to replace the garment and casino is the only thing I see. Does anybody see anything else?

Juan Muna Cabrera (Bobo)

San Antonio, Saipan

CERTIFIED Used Cars

DEALS OF THE WEEK

1 YEAR
FREE SERVICE
WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

 2005 Kia Rio LX STOCK # 56398694 \$7,995.00	 2008 Kia Sedona LX STOCK # 86261070 \$19,995.00	 2009 Honda Accord LX-P STOCK # 9A120062 \$22,995.00
 2001 Ford Crown Victoria STOCK # 1X16270 \$7,995.00* (SOLD AS IS)	 2006 Ford Escape XLS STOCK # 6KC61926 \$14,995.00*	 2005 Kia Sedona LX STOCK # 56719512 \$9,995.00*
 2001 Honda Prelude STOCK # 1C005458 \$8,995.00* (SOLD AS IS)	 2004 Honda Accord LX STOCK # 4A047145 \$14,995.00*	 2006 Ford E-350 XLT STOCK # 6DA49114 \$18,995.00*
 2004 Honda Accord LX STOCK # 4A109159 \$12,995.00*	 2008 Honda CR-V LX STOCK # 8C029650 \$19,995.00*	 2008 Honda CR-V LX AWD STOCK # 8C058169 \$21,995.00*
 Joseph (Jay) Cabrera Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562	 2008 Nissan Altima S Coupe STOCK # 8C217606 \$19,995.00*	 2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD STOCK # 6C629879 \$22,995.00*

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Personal ill feelings

Ms. King, all due respect but your personal feelings relating to the WASC report is no match to the hurt, disappointment, and chaos that will be heaped on students if all their hard work ends at a loss or are not accredited to their names.

I firmly believe that since the very beginning, your self-interest influenced constituents and colleagues within the board. The political fiasco surrounding the only college in the Northern Mariana Islands was manipulated and micromanaged by a group of self-interested individuals who could not accept that one person—one who is not from the CNMI—could turn the college around and restore its accreditation without any political or self-interest gain.

Now the college's accreditation is at stake. Today NMC is back on show-cause status. The only difference is it's on a "severe show-cause status." I wonder who would our Legislature blame this time.

I once said that NMC does not need

a King but a president who can lead. There is another saying that, in order to see and know one's character, give him or her power and you shall see for the end results are always devastating. There is no place for personal ill feelings, animosity and self-interest in true leadership. Remember that WASC cited many instances wherein your leadership, along with your colleagues on the board, exerted influence in the operations of NMC. As in the case where an off-island law firm was illegally hired without the approval or concurrence of a full board. As in the case when the interim president was appointed and subsequently given a salary adjustment without the approval of a full board. Clearly the Western Association of Schools and Colleges was correct in its assessment and, in my view, politics, self-interest and lack of real leadership is the downfall of NMC.

Gregorio Cruz
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

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Editor's Note: The following is the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's testimony on House Legislative Initiative 17-03, as read by Alexander A. Sablan, member, board of directors and Government Relations Committee.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce Government Relations Committee has reviewed and discussed House Legislative Initiative 17-03, to amend Article XII, Section 1,4 and 5 of the NMI Constitution. The Chamber does not believe that this initiative adequately addresses the fundamental issues raised by Article XII.

Article XII of the CNMI Constitution is premised upon a presumed need, 25 years ago, to protect the indigenous landowners of the Northern Mariana Islands against exploitation and to promote their economic advancement and self-sufficiency. Nearly three decades have passed since the start of Covenant negotiations. During that time, the demographic of "persons of Northern Marianas descent" has changed dramatically. Chamorros and Carolinians in the Commonwealth are no longer largely unsophisticated, untraveled, insular people with little practical or business experience or contact with the rest of the world. Instead, hundreds of millions of dollars have changed hands in sophisticated land lease agreements; many millions of visitors have come to our islands; business have produced and exported billions of dollars worth of goods; approximately 50 percent of our high school graduates undertake postsecondary education; and Chamorro and Carolinians live and work in all four corners of the globe. No longer do indigenous landowners of the Commonwealth need the local or federal government telling them what they can or cannot do with their own property.

The same constitutional provision that was intended to, and at a time did, protect indigenous landowners from exploitation now itself serves as a source of exploitation and a cause of economic repression both for individuals and for the Commonwealth economy as a whole. Decreasing the blood quantum requirement for an individual to qualify as "Northern Marianas descent" or allowing Northern Marianas descent corporations to issue nonvoting shares to individuals not of Northern Marianas descent does not cure the inherently repressive economic and social limitations of Article XII.

Over the long term, leasehold interests, by their very nature, depreciate—unlike fee simple interests, which appreciate. Investors, whether resi-

dential or commercial, are much less likely to build or maintain quality structures knowing that the value of their land lease and the value of any improvements will continue to decrease over time and that at some date in the future, ownership will revert to the original lessor.

Furthermore, land alienation restrictions artificially depress the value of real property owned by individuals of Northern Marianas descent—the pool of eligible fee-simple purchasers is limited to indigenous individuals or corporations with liquid assets and an interest in acquiring real property. Northern Marianas descent individuals seeking to realize the greatest possible value for their own property are being denied that right. In many cases, indigenous landowners facing college tuition, medical expenses, or other financial emergencies are forced to sell their property at a fraction of its true value because Article XII, rather than protecting them from "exploitation," instead artificially depresses the value of their land by limiting the pool of potential purchasers. Such individuals are unable to obtain bank loans or mortgages guaranteed by real property, which would allow them to retain ownership of their land, and they instead suffer the permanent loss of their property sold at an artificially depressed price.

The proposed amendment to Section 4 of Article XII, to reduce the blood quantum requirement from 25 percent to 1 percent does not in any way cure these issues, nor does it address the unavoidable eventually that children of Northern Mariana descent individuals will one day be denied the right to own land in the Commonwealth. For the many Chamorros and Carolinians who are currently at the 25 percent blood quantum threshold, in the event that they and their descendants continue to marry person not of Northern Marianas descent, in only five more generations offspring will not qualify to inherit ancestral land.

The proposed amendments to Section 5 of Article XII will do little to encourage additional investment in the Commonwealth. Nonvoting stock is of limited value to most investors. Although nonvoting stock may entitle the holders to possible dividend payments, it denies the holder any voice in the management of a corporation. Ownership of nonvoting stock would not, for example, allow a shareholder participation in any decision to purchase or sell land, to whom to sell the land, and at what price. Few legitimate investors will see any value in purchasing nonvoting stock as a substitute

for what could be achieved just as well, and with more certainty, by a contractual agreement.

The proposed amendment to Section 1 Article XII (restricting land ownership in perpetuity) would be unenforceable. Any constitutional amendment is subject to future amendment. Nothing is perpetual in law. The Constitution is a living document reflecting the evolving needs of society over time. Any amendment enacted by popular vote can always be rescinded by the same power: the power of the people.

Until landowners in the Northern Marianas are allowed to exercise their own free will with respect to their own real property, the Commonwealth economy will not reach its full potential, development will remain largely substandard, and Northern Marianas descent individuals and corporations will be denied the full value of what is rightfully theirs. House Legislative Initiative 17-03 offers an opportunity to avoid addressing the fundamental issues relating to Article XII and offers no long-term benefit to the local economy or to indigenous landowners. For this reason, we oppose the measure.

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PSS denies Borja's appeal for benefits he claims are due him

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former education commissioner Dr. David Borja expressed himself disappointed after the Public School System denied him some benefits that he believes are due him.

Borja had asked current Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan on April 26, 2010, for help in availing of housing, unpaid hours, and repatriation benefits that he said were not given him by PSS.

These included unpaid hours of service during his summer school teaching 20 students at Marianas High School, the balance of housing allowance due him since he was hired from off-island, compensation for hours earned under extended duty credit, and his

repatriation ticket.

In his April letter to Sablan, Borja said: "Though I had served with the PSS with varying positions, I started my service as a classroom teacher and am now exiting as a classroom teacher at MHS. I began teaching service at the start of school year 1994-1995 with recruitment as an off-island hire. I garnered from this type of hire two additional benefits along with a teacher annual salary: repatriation of employee, spouse, and children; and housing allowance."

Sablan responded to Borja's letter on May 18, denying the benefits being sought by the former official.

She explained that Borja had signed a document called "New Certified Contract Agreement" on Feb. 27, 1997, wherein he

agreed to cede any housing benefits he may be entitled to so that he could be paid a higher salary.

Also, upon review of Borja's original contract for employment as a classroom teacher at MHS, Sablan said that Borja is not entitled to repatriation expenses.

Borja wrote Sablan again on May 23 to disagree with Sablan's decision.

"According to the terms of my initial contract, 'upon completion of the agreed upon period of service under this contract or any subsequent certified or non-certified contract entered into upon the expiration of this contract, the PSS shall pay all return travel and transportation expenses to the point of recruitment. The employer will be charged of this responsibility if repatriation expenses are not

incurred within one year of the termination date...'" Borja's letter read.

The same contract provision states that "upon renewal of an excepted services employment contract, all repatriation benefits stipulated under Section 8 [B], of the condition of employment in this contract shall be carried over into the renewed contract until such time that the employee is officially terminated from the PSS."

Borja claimed he was never terminated by PSS and that he is currently under contract, which started Sept. 1, 2008 and ends on Aug. 31, 2010.

Off-island hire

Borja, who resigned as education chief in June 2008, was originally hired by PSS as a classroom teacher from St. Louis, Missouri on July

25, 1994. As an off-island hire, he was to receive a housing allowance and repatriation ticket as part of his compensation package.

When Borja left the Commissioner's Office in June 2008, he said he was immediately hired as a classroom teacher at MHS. His two-year contract will expire this September.

Borja, who is relocating to the U.S. mainland for good, said he was supposed to leave the island this Sunday and had gone to the PSS central office to follow up on his request for a repatriation ticket.

Borja said his request hasn't been acted upon by PSS despite the support shown by both his vice principal and principal at MHS.

'Climate of fear'

Borja admitted he is leaving the

island with a heavy heart. Borja described the current management at PSS as having a leadership of fear and intimidation.

Commissioner Sablan refused to comment on this but two top PSS officials came to Sablan's defense.

"It's nonsense," said PSS federal program officer Tim Thornburgh, adding that the success of student performance and other operations at PSS are proof of Sablan's collaborative efforts with her leadership, principals, and stakeholders of education.

Associate commissioner of administrative services Peter James Le'au also defended the commissioner: "I see no fear. In fact, it is the most open leadership I have ever seen at PSS. We're working here as a team for our students."

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- Walk-in, No appointment necessary
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Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Early Signs of Autism

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Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social

Children with autism may:

- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral

Children with autism may:

- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposely hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas

Children with autism often:

- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at **664-4830** for a free developmental screening.

Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.

Early action is the key!



Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Retirement Fund execs: Suspension of refunds indefinite

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has decided to indefinitely suspend a policy that stops refund payment to members, according to board chair Sixto Igisomar and Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo.

"The purpose and intention of the resolution was good. But after careful analysis and thorough review of our financial status as to where the Fund is heading, we have decided to suspend it indefinitely," Igisomar said.

He also said a resolution to stop the refund payments to members has been placed on the shelf.

Igisomar described the decision as "physically sound" for the Fund because allowing people to withdraw their contributions lessens the liability of the program.

"We just put it [policy] on the shelf for future guidance. If something comes up in the future, this could be taken out by the board, provided the decision is based on objective and thorough review of the numbers," he said.

The board chairman pointed out that the decision was made with the best interest of all parties in mind.

Alepuyo explained that part of the reasons behind the board's decision is the current economic situation and the increasing number of unemployed government employees on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

She disclosed that a large number of affected members on Rota and Tinian who've lost their jobs were forced to withdraw their contributions. Some employees in the Legislature were also affected, forcing them to seek a refund on their contribution.

In July last year, the board of trustees unanimously passed the resolution that stops the refund of members effective Sept. 1, 2009.

Because of the impact of federalization in November last year, this policy was delayed for six months and was supposed to become effective February 2010. It was again put off until July 2010 until the board decided to just "stop its implementation indefinitely."

Alepuyo said that Fund trustees also took into consideration the findings and recommendation of its actuarial consultant, Buck Consultants, about the refund policy.

The consultants, she said, welcomed the refunds of members because it would help the Fund in the long term.

"Buck Consultants said that if you look at whether to refund a person or not, if you have the cash...do it because in the long term it will help the Fund," she explained, adding that this will decrease the agency's unfunded liability.

To date, the Fund has over \$520 million in unfunded liability.

Igisomar said the reinstatement of the policy would not happen very soon.

"It was done in the best inter-

est of members and the Fund. If we call it back tomorrow... that's very unreasonable," Igisomar said, adding possible reinstatement would require careful and objective analysis of numbers.

The Retirement Fund stopped paying for refunds after its total funded accrued actuarial liability fell below 40 percent in the last five years. Currently, the Fund is only 39 percent funded in this area and has consistently

failed to reach a level of 50 percent since fiscal year 2000.

Based on the Fund's proposed budget for FY 2011, the board of trustees initially allocated \$3.5 million for refund payments.



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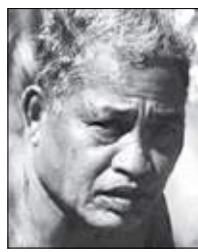
Legendary master navigator Mau Piailug dies

The legendary Micronesian master navigator, Mau Piailug, died on his home island of Satawal in the Federated States of Micronesia on July 12. He was 78 and had suffered from diabetes for many years.

Piailug is credited with a revival of ancient navigational skills used by Pacific explorers—using only observations of stars, moon, wind, currents

and birds to cross the ocean, long before Western explorers arrived.

Working with the Hawaii-based Polynesian Voyaging Society, Piailug in 1976 navigated the double-hulled voyaging canoe *Hokule'a* from Hawaii to Tahiti on its maiden voyage.



Piailug

"He did that because of his belief the knowledge and skills were dying," said Piailug's cousin Sam, "and he wanted to pass on the skills and the knowledge."

Fellow master navigator Manny Sikau said, "he was a great man; grand master navigator.

He was my idol when I was growing up and learning traditional navigation."

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* newspaper quotes the president of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, Nainoa Thompson, calling Piailug a giant among Pacific islanders whose contributions to cultural preservation were beyond measure.

Mau Piailug was born in 1932

PUBLIC HEARING

Citizens for Change of Article 12 officers David M. Sablan, left, and Alex Sablan, right, listen to the testimonies on a legislative initiative seeking to amend Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution, during a public hearing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Tuesday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-10-2303

For: CNMI Tourism Master Plan for 2011 - 2015

Closing Date: August 10, 2010

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
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Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAR
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 beginning at 9:30am at 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

I. PRELIMINARIES

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes

II. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

III. CONSULTANT'S REPORTS

1. Investment Consultant Report
2. Loan Administrator Report
3. Legal Counsel Report
4. Board Consultant Report

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Trustee Liability Insurance -RFP Responders' Submission
2. A&E Proposal
3. CUC

V. COMMUNICATIONS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Travel Policy

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF

Chairman, MPLT Trustees

REQUEST for PROPOSALS MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST RFP 10-02

INVESTMENT in a LOCAL HIGH YIELD LOAN PROGRAM

This is a request for any and all investment proposals from interested parties or firms seeking capital sources or funding for projects or ventures within the CNMI.

MPLT Board of Trustees has recently updated its Asset Allocation and determined that a percentage (5%) of its total investment portfolio (\$3.36 million) shall be devoted to a local investment program. This local investment program will be designated as high yield investments since the associated risks are much higher than those of publicly traded investment grade securities. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Challenges to obtaining sufficient capital for projects or ventures.
- Associated promissory notes cannot be traded or sold thus have no liquidity.
- Associated promissory notes are not rated and considered less than investment grade.
- Often the local private or public sector proposer's ability to repay the loan is challenged.
- Credit rating for such borrowers is often low.
- Ability to raise capital or obtain credit is limited.
- Maximum exposure for each investment cannot be controlled.
- Sufficient collateral beyond those acquired with loan proceed is limited.

As a high yield investment, MPLT may limit the duration for each investment to not more than five years. This is not a low-income or low interest rate program. Interest rates will be determined based upon risk and duration. Due to the higher risks associated with this type of investment, a risk premium will be added to the base interest rate.

Proposal information and guidelines under this program can be obtained at the MPLT office as shown below.

Five (5) copies plus one original of the sealed proposals must be submitted to the MPLT Office, 1313 Anatahan Drive, Capital Hill Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 PM, on August 25, 2010. Proposals must be sealed and marked "Local High Yield Loan Program, RFP 10-02". Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the MPLT.

Phillip Mendiola-Long
Chairman

on Satawal, a tiny Pacific island no wider than a mile in Micronesia. He is survived by more than a dozen children and numerous grandchildren. (Radio New Zealand International)

Second suspect in AMPRO site burglary gets two-day sentence

The Superior Court has sentenced to two days in prison

one of three men charged with breaking into a hazardous explosive removal project in Marpi and stealing used shell casings.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ray Anthony Ayuyu to 90 days in prison, all suspended except for two days, for criminal trespass, with credit for the two days he had already served in jail. This means the 38-year-old Ayuyu will be freed at once.

Wiseman placed Ayuyu on one year of supervised probation and required him to pay a \$25 court assessment fee, probation fee, and restitution, plus 50 hours of community service.

There will be a review hearing on Dec. 15, 2010, to determine whether Ayuyu has complied with the terms and

conditions of his sentence.

The Office of the Attorney General charged him with theft, conspiracy to commit theft, and criminal trespass.

Ayuyu through his lawyer agreed to plead guilty to criminal trespass in exchange for the dismissal of the remaining charges.

The case arose from a July 12, 2009, incident when Ayuyu, James Sanchez, and Matthew Igisaiar entered an AMPRO's project site in Marpi and stole used shell casings. Police said the three, when arrested that day, confessed selling the stolen scrap metal to a recycling plant.

Igisaiar pleaded guilty to criminal trespass last month and was sentenced to 90 days, all suspended except for one day, with credit for the one day he had already served in jail. (Ferdie de la Torre)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



NOTICE TO ALL CUC CUSTOMERS

In an effort to improve our customer service, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) will be making changes to its billing dates effective August 1, 2010. Please be informed that your billing date will move up one (1) week from the normal billing date that you may be accustomed to. Thus, your bill due dates will change accordingly.

CUC appreciates your understanding.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

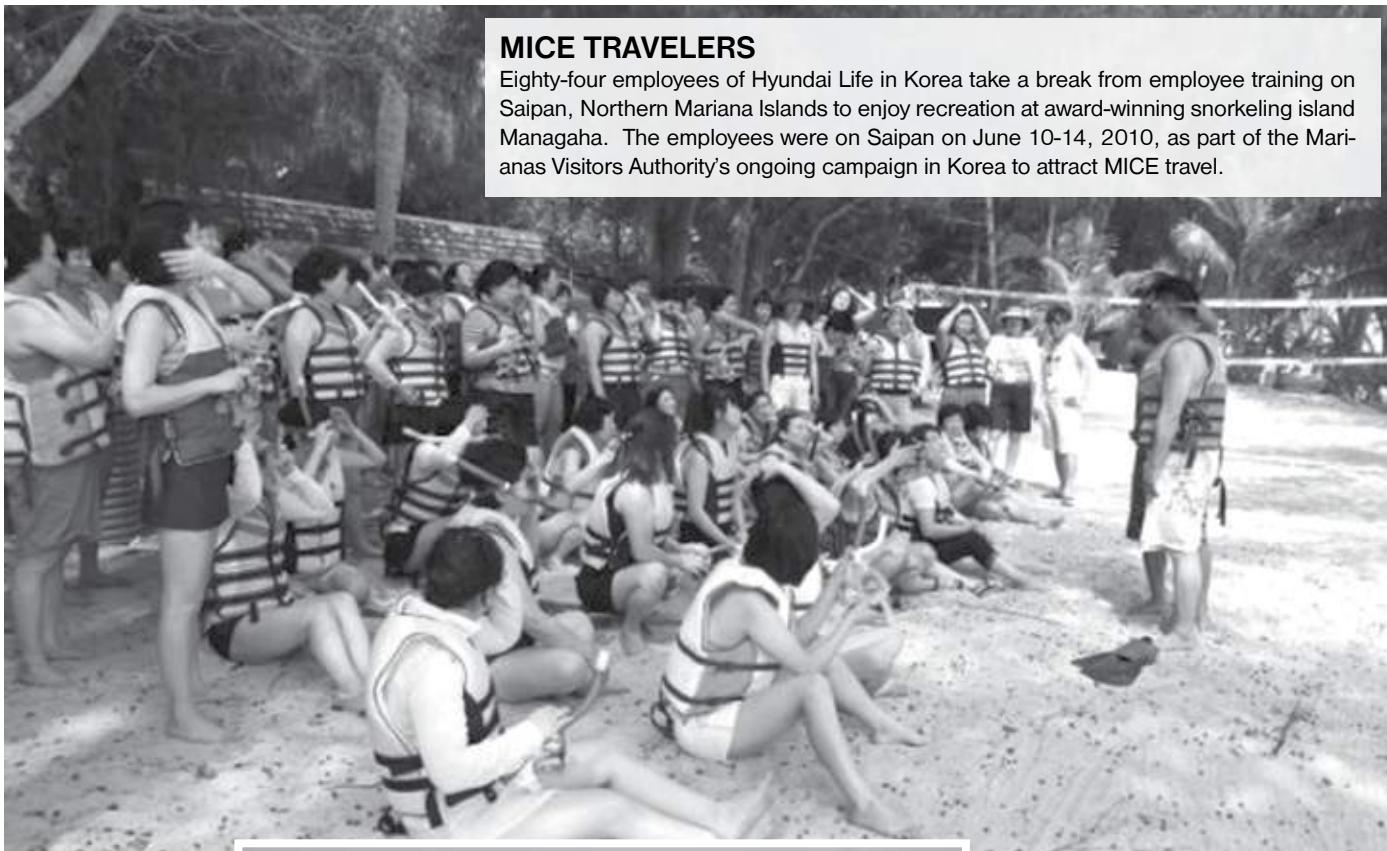
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance at 670.234-6866/7689/7670 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. thru 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
- II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - A. February 24, 2010 - Regular Meeting
 - B. April 15, 2010 - Special Meeting
 - C. June 04, 2010 - Special Meeting
 - D. June 15, 2010 - Special Meeting
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- IV. COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
 - A. CDBG Timeliness
 - B. Submission of Annual Action Plan & ConPlan
 - C. Proposed Projects for Program Year 2010
- V. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
 - A. VA Loan Updates
 - B. RD Loan Updates
 - C. HOME Loan for Approval
 - D. Lot No. 003 D'02
- VI. PROGRAM & HOUSING
 - A. REAC Report & Result
 - B. PHA Plans
 - 1. 5 Year Plan for Fiscal Years 2009-2013
 - 2. Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2010
- VII. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- VIII. ADMIN & PROCUREMENT MATTERS
- IX. FISCAL MATTERS
 - A. Travel Policy
 - B. Budget
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. OTHER MATTERS
 - A. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Application
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13(6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

/S/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.

**MICE TRAVELERS**

Eighty-four employees of Hyundai Life in Korea take a break from employee training on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands to enjoy recreation at award-winning snorkeling island Managaha. The employees were on Saipan on June 10-14, 2010, as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's ongoing campaign in Korea to attract MICE travel.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Glenn Policar, Pacific Islands Club's activities manager, is celebrating his birthday today. Greetings from your PIC family.

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**

Happy, happy birthday greetings go out to Polly DLGuerrero, who is celebrating her birthday today, Friday, July 16th. May you be blessed with many more birthdays, and may you have a fantabulous and foxxxxy day! Much love coming out from your APA and Cinda familia, all your fabulous friends, and your PIC crew!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JOB CORPS TRAINING

Case manager Frances A. Torres of Workforce Investment Agency joins trainees from the Job Corps program for a group photo during a press conference held yesterday at the WIA office. On the white screen are Rota case manager Gavin Mendiola and trainee Orville Manglona.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

**WELCOME!**

Welcome into this world, Sage Jerome Lizama Santos, who was born on July 6, 2010! Greetings come from the family.



IT'S DOUBLE STAMP DAYS AT SHELL!

For a limited time, when you gas up at Shell, you'll be rewarded with Double Stamps for each gallon of fuel purchased. Double Stamps allow you to redeem your Lucky 7 Passport in half the time, which means more value for you.

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STARTER KIT



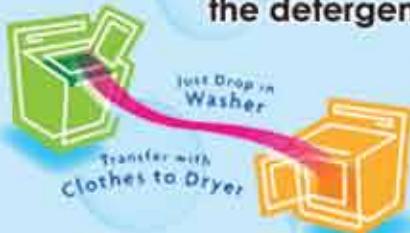
What is Purex® Complete 3-in-1™ Laundry Sheets?

Purex® Complete 3-in-1™ Laundry Sheets are a load's worth of detergent, softener and anti-static all in one powerful sheet.



How Does It Work?

Simply drop laundry sheet into washer, the detergent is released during the wash cycle. Once wash is complete, transfer the laundry sheet with clothes to dryer. The stripe is heat activated by the dryer to soften and remove static. It's that simple.



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NAVFAC breaks ground on \$4 billion training facility

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas and Commander Submarine Squadron 15 hosted a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday at Polaris Point on U.S. Naval Base Guam in Piti.

The groundbreaking was for the construction of a new two-story consolidated training, submarine learning center, and headquarters facility; and a one-story torpedo exercise support facility.

A \$4 billion maximum capacity indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity design-build multiple award construction contract was

awarded May 2010 to seven companies for construction projects at sites on Guam and other areas in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific area of responsibility. Under the terms of the MACC, a \$23.41 million task order (0001) was awarded to dck-ec pacific guam llc for this seed project.

The SLC will be a learning facility for academic and applied training consisting of team trainers and simulators, classrooms and instructors offices.

The CSS-15 headquarters facility will include offices and administrative spaces, an emergency control center, and

material and equipment storage rooms.

The torpedo exercise support facility will include a target preparation area, helicopter launcher checkout and preparation area, exercise torpedo flushing operations room, and support office spaces.

All work for this task order is expected to be completed by November 2011.

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command manages the planning, design, construction, contingency engineering, real estate, environmental, and public works support for U.S. Navy shore facilities around the world. (PR)

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859 • Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIEGO SN DELA CRUZ and LEOLANIE R. DELA CRUZ, Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 15, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 011 G 403, consisting of 858 square meters located in Kagman III, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Located on the lot is a fully concrete, one bedroom, one bathroom house with an attached carport. House is approximately 10 years old, and in need of some repair. There are existing power and sewage hook ups.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 30, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room (Old Election Commission Office), Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670 234 7859; Fax: 670 234 5749.

3. **Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of June, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234 7859 • Fax: (670) 234 5749

Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. WILLIAM DLG ANGUIL and JESSIE A. ANGUIL, Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on May 14, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1067, consisting of 841 square meters located in Kagman III, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Located on the lot is a fully concrete, one bedroom, one bathroom house. House is approximately 10 years old, and in need of some repair. There are existing power and sewage hook ups.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 30, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670 234 7859; Fax: 670 234-5749.

3. **Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of June, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234 7859 • Fax: (670) 234 5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. JESUS S. BARCINAS, Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on May 14, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in the following property:

1. **Lot EA 120-2.** Located in As Felipe, Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 2,165 square meters, more or less; and

2. **Lot EA 459-12.** Located in As Felipe, Garapan, Saipan, containing an area of 1,199 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on August 5, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- To reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670 234 7859; Fax: 670 234-5749.

3. **Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 17th day of June, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

BOE approves \$8.6M consolidated grant for FY'11

The Public School System now has a plan in place on how it will use the \$8.6 million consolidated grant for Fiscal Year 2011.

The Board of Education approved yesterday a plan on how the funds under the federal Consolidated Grant-Title V will be tapped.

PSS stands to receive a total of \$8,624 million, from which \$900,000 is reserved for assessment, while \$100,000 will be reserved for Title I planning grants.

During yesterday's regular board meeting, PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh reported that of the \$8.6

million, \$7.6 million will be used for the state administration, professional school improvements and appropriation for public and private schools.

Thornburgh said a total of \$171,543 will be used for monitoring programs at 20 public schools and 32 private schools while funds reserved for professional school improvement is \$972,079.

These professional school improvements include the Saturday reading program, \$50,000; networked computer/scanner/printer, \$500,000; students competitions, \$220,000; monitoring and mentoring novice teachers, \$50,000; public

education programs, \$72,079; and other programs, \$80,000.

Still to be taken out from \$972,079 funds for professional school improvements is the private schools allocation of \$1,036 million and the public school allocation of \$5,443 million.

Under the public school allocation, the following will be funded: instructional materials and equipment, \$2 million; class size reduction, \$1.6 million; professional development, \$214,892; tutorials and mentoring, \$1.1 million; and reading resource teachers salary, \$481,783. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Jehovah's Witness convention starts today on Saipan Focus on message rarely heard: Stay close to God

In a world where some powerful and influential voices in academia and media dismiss or disparage belief in God, Jehovah's Witnesses are proclaiming the importance of such belief, actually promoting the strengthening of one's personal attachment to God. The Witnesses will present an intriguing approach to the topic as a clarion call to the faithful as well as an analysis of faith and reason at their 2010 "Remain Close to Jehovah!" District Convention.

The convention is scheduled to begin today, Friday, at the Marianas High School Gym. The Witnesses will feature an intriguing approach to the topic as a clarion call to the faithful as well as an analysis of faith and reason at their 2010 "Remain Close to Jehovah!" District Convention. The convention is scheduled to begin today, Friday, at the Marianas High School Gym.

The convention will be presented as encouragement for those who already believe in God and wish to deepen their spirituality. However, the program will also feature parts that respectfully examine different attitudes nonbelievers have toward God and

misconceptions that hinder many from developing an intimate friendship with God. The Witnesses believe that a careful reading of Bible passages can reveal much about God's personality and how humans can draw close to a God they cannot see.

The Friday morning session will feature the keynote address, "How Jehovah Draws Close to Us." On Friday afternoon, most of the program will focus on how family members can enhance their communication with one another based on their individual relationships with God. The session will conclude by focusing on why faith in God must be built on fact and reason, taking a closer look at evidence supporting what is stated in the Bible at Romans 1:20.

Saturday's program will feature positive steps one can take to protect one's spirituality and one's relationship with God. This point will be especially emphasized on Saturday morning, when local residents who studied these and other Bible topics in detail will publicly symbolize their personal dedication to God during a baptism ceremony. This ordination of new ministers will include a discussion based on Galatians 4:9.

On Sunday morning, a fast-moving series of talks will provide a fresh examination of eight aspects of God's appealing personality as revealed in the Scriptures. The public discourse, entitled "How Can You Draw Close to God?" will address several questions, such as: Does God exist? If so, has he communicated with mankind? By what means? A special feature on Sunday afternoon will be a full-costume drama set in the first century, focusing on God's desire to deliver those close to him when he brings an end to wickedness on earth.

Jehovah's Witnesses invite everyone to attend and learn more about these topics. All three days of the convention, the program sessions begin at 9:20am. Admission is free, and no collections will be taken. (PR)

GIG hosts variety show on July 31

GIG Discotheque will be hosting a variety show on July 31 that will showcase Saipan's brightest performers.

A Project Impact fifth anniversary presentation, the event will feature acts like the Rock-A-Beat Dancers, Lost Squad Dance Crew, Saipan heartthrob Ricky, Paper Dolls impersonators, fabulous diva Sharmaine, and the Project Impact Dancers themselves. The hour and a half party will start exactly at 8:30pm. (PR)

4th NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Marianas Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NO. 019 1 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 1 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 1 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991

The Trustor has defaulted on payment on the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC SS 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust.

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,442.60	Down 19.80	(-0.44%)
HONG KONG	20,255.62	Down 305.19	(-1.48%)
TOKYO	9,685.53	Down 109.71	(-1.12%)
MANILA	3,467.63	Down 4.70	(-0.14%)
SEOUL	1,751.29	Down 6.72	(-0.38%)
AUSTRALIA	4,442.60	Down 19.80	(-0.44%)
JAKARTA	2,980.60	Down 0.46	(-0.02%)
K. LUMPUR	1,334.08	Down 7.00	(-0.52%)
SINGAPORE	2,948.69	Down 4.12	(+0.14%)
BANGKOK	820.78	Up 1.24	(+0.15%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,366.72	+0.04%
S&P	1,095.17	-0.02%
NASDAQ	2,249.84	+0.35%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1348
British Pound	0.6528
Canadian Dollar	1.0322
Chinese Yuan	6.7770
Euro	0.7822
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7712
Indian Rupee	46.7150
Indonesian Rupiah	9,042.5000
Japanese Yen	88.0350
Malaysian Ringgit	3.200
New Zealand Dollar	1.3843
Philippine Peso	46.3650
Singapore Dollar	1.3737
South Korean Won	1,207.0000
Swiss Franc	1.0487
Taiwan Dollar	32.1050
Thailand Baht	32.2400

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

PUREX COMPLETE 3-IN-1 LAUNDRY SHEETS

Hassle-free laundry

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Do you dread taking a trip down to the laundromat carrying mountain loads of dirty clothes and bulky bottles of liquid laundry detergent and fabric softener? Have you ever missed putting the softener during the rinse cycle? Does doing laundry seem like such a daunting task for you?

A new product that is now available in the market can simplify the laundry task ahead and offer a practical solution to one of the most dreaded household chores.

Purex Complete 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets would breeze you through doing your laundry as each sheet already contains concentrated detergent, fabric softener, and anti-static that is equivalent to one load's worth.

Using this new product is simple. Just drop the laundry sheet into the washer and the blue portion, which is the detergent part, is released during the wash cycle.

When the wash cycle is complete, transfer the clothes together with the laundry sheet to the dryer. The stripe is heat activated so when the dryer heats up, the sheet softens the clothes and removes the static.

Not only does Purex Complete 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets

simplify the laundry process, they are also more environment-friendly compared to a standard bottle of liquid detergent.

Purex Complete 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets are available in two package types: a Starter Kit that has one dispenser and 20 laundry sheets and the Refill Pouch which contains 24 laundry sheets.

Retail price for the Starter Kit is from \$8.99 to \$9.99. The Refill Pouch is priced at \$8.99.

Purex Complete 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets



dry Sheets also come in three different scents. The Spring Oasis is a nature-inspired scent with hints of fresh citrus and flowers. The Tropical Escape is an island-inspired fragrance with whiffs of exotic fruits. The Pure & Clean scent has a delicate fresh smell that is suitable for those with sensitive skin because it's 100-percent hypoallergenic.

Put an end to bulky laundry products, spills, and messes. With the new Purex Complete 3-in-1 Laundry Sheets, doing laundry can now be hassle-free.

signs of leveling off in recent months, but remains a crippling drag on the housing market.

Experimental diet pill shows promise, little risk

ATLANTA (AP)—An experimental diet pill helped about half the people who tried it lose some weight and keep it off a year later, without the heart problems that some earlier drugs caused, a study found. Arena Pharmaceuticals' lorcaserin is one of three drugs that are boosting hope for a new generation of more effective weight-loss medicines. One gets a Food and Drug Administration review on Thursday and the others, later this year. In the study, lorcaserin (lor-KASS-ah-rin) caused more people to lose at least 5 percent of their body weight over one year, more than twice the rate achieved by those on dummy pills.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Homes lost to foreclosure on track for 1M in 2010

LOS ANGELES (AP)—More than 1 million American households are likely to lose their homes to foreclosure this year, as lenders work their way through a huge backlog of borrowers who have fallen behind on their loans. Nearly 528,000 homes were taken over by lenders in the first six months of the year, a rate that is on track to eclipse the more than 900,000 homes repossessed in 2009, according to data released Thursday by RealtyTrac Inc., a foreclosure listing service. "That would be unprecedented," said Rick Sharga, a senior vice president at RealtyTrac. By comparison, lenders have historically taken over about 100,000 homes a year, Sharga said.

The surge in home repossession reflects the dynamic of a foreclosure crisis that has shown

signs of leveling off in recent months, but remains a crippling drag on the housing market.

KAPITI ICE CREAM

Newest frozen delight to hit Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Whether it's a timeless classic like vanilla and chocolate or a mélange of flavors like butter pecan or double dutch treat, it is still ice cream, an all-time favorite dessert and arguably the ultimate comfort food for a good number of people.

To satisfy their sweet tooth, ice cream lovers can all unite as they indulge in the newest frozen decadent treat to hit the stores on Saipan.

New Zealand-based Kapiti Ice Cream is now available on island, thanks to Micronesia Brokers (CNMI), Inc. which distributes the award-winning ice cream brand.

Kapiti Fine Foods Ltd., maker of the Kapiti Ice Cream, is a subsidiary of the Fonterra company which is famous for gourmet cheeses, ice cream and other dairy products.

An iconic New Zealand product, Kapiti Ice Cream contains real fruit flavors and uses only fresh, natural ingredients in creating a wide array of delightful tastes.

The boysenberry flavor is smothered with loads of real boysenberries combined with Kapiti's premium ice cream. Spicy apple puree swirled with



apple ice cream and accented with crunchy cinnamon crumble generates the Spicy Apple Crumble delight.

The rich, creamy and innovative flavors of Kapiti Ice Cream are so good that they received recognition at the 2008 New Zealand Ice Cream Awards, including Best Premium Vanilla Ice Cream for the Vanilla Bean flavor and gold medals in the Premium Ice Cream Category for the Passionfruit & Lemon and Poached Pear Pear flavors.

Kapiti Ice Cream products are available in three different sizes. The petite 100ml only costs \$0.79 and comes in three lip-smacking flavors—Vanilla Bean, Hokey Pokey, and Black

Doris Plum and Crème Fraîche.

For only \$5.99, you can take home a 1-liter tub available in four exciting flavors—Triple Chocolate, Double Cream and Cookies, Vanilla Bean, and Fig and Honey.

The five-liter size containers, pegged at \$20-21, offer more electrifying flavors—Spicy Apple Crumble, Lemon Meringue Pie, White Chocolate Raspberry, Poached Pear Helene, Boysenberry, After Dinner Mint, Lime Sorbet, Passionfruit & Lemon, and Blackcurrant & Blackberry.

Nothing beats the sheer delight of Kapiti Ice Cream. For information and orders, call 322-3018.

BP works to fix valve leak before choking oil flow

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP engineers working to choke the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico found a leak on a line attached to the side of the new well cap and were trying to fix it Thursday before attempting to stop the flow of crude.

BP said Wednesday evening it had isolated the leak and was repairing it before moving forward. It wasn't clear how it would affect the timing of the operation, or whether oil continued to be slowly closed off into the cap.

Work started earlier Wednesday after a day-long hiatus to allay government fears that the disaster could be made worse by going forward with the tests to determine whether the temporary cap can withstand the pressure and contain the oil. It was the best hope yet of stopping the crude from streaming into the water for the first time since the April 20 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig that killed 11 people.

The process began with BP shutting off pipes that were funneling some of the oil to ships on the surface so the full force of the gusher went up into the cap. Then deep-sea robots began slowly closing, one at a time, three openings in the

cap that let oil pass through. Ultimately, the flow of crude will be blocked entirely.

All along, engineers were watching pressure readings to learn whether the well is intact. The first two valves shut off like a light switch, while the third works more like a dimmer and takes longer to close off. The leak was found in the line attached to the dimmer switch, but live video footage showed that oil previously spewing from other sources on the cap remained closed off.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the Obama administration's point man on the disaster, said a committee of scientists and engineers will monitor the results and assess every six hours, and end the test after 48 hours to evaluate the findings.

"I was gung-ho for this test and I remain gung-ho for this test," he said Wednesday.

If the cap works, it will enable BP to stop the oil from gushing into the sea, either by holding all the oil inside the well machinery like a stopper or, if the pressure is too great, channeling some through lines to as many as four collection ships.

The cap—a 75-ton metal stack of lines and valves—was lowered onto the well on

Monday in hopes of either bottling up the oil inside the well machinery, or capturing it and funneling it to the surface. But before BP could test the equipment, the government intervened because of concerns about whether the buildup of pressure from the gushing oil could rupture the walls of the well and make the leak worse.

"We sat long and hard about delaying the tests," Allen said. He said that the pause was necessary in the interest of the public, the environment and safety, until officials were convinced the test could go forward.

Allen said the testing will also offer insight into the other, more permanent solution to the fix: two relief wells intended to plug the gusher from deep underground. The mapping of the sea floor that was done to prepare for the well cap test and the pressure readings will also help them determine how much mud and cement will be needed to seal off the well.

Drill work was stopped on one relief well because it was not clear what effect the testing of the cap could have on it. Work on the other relief well had already been stopped according to plan.

Nation

Brief for 9 states backs Arizona immigration law

DETROIT—States have the authority to enforce immigration laws and protect their borders, Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox said Wednesday in a legal brief on behalf of nine states supporting Arizona's immigration law.

Cox, one of five Republicans running for Michigan governor, said Michigan is the lead state backing Arizona in federal court and is joined by Alabama, Florida, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas and Virginia, as well as the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Arizona law, set to take effect July 29, directs officers to question people about their immigration status during the enforcement of other laws such as traffic stops and if there's a reasonable suspicion they're in the U.S. illegally.

President Barack Obama's administration recently filed suit in federal court to block it, arguing immigration is a federal issue. The law's backers say Congress isn't doing anything meaningful about illegal immigration, so it's the state's duty to step up.

"Arizona, Michigan and every other state have the authority to enforce immigration laws, and it is appalling to see President Obama use taxpayer dollars to stop a state's efforts to protect its own borders," Cox said in a statement.

Arizona's Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, in a statement released by Cox's office, said she was thankful for the support.

In a telephone interview, Cox said



A sheriff's vehicle drives past a group of people demonstrating against illegal immigrants, outside the Fremont, Neb., city hall, Tuesday, July 13, 2010.

the nine states supporting Arizona represents "a lot of states," considering it was only Monday that he asked other state attorneys general to join him. The brief was filed in U.S. District Court in Arizona on the same day as the deadline for such filings.

"By lawsuit, rather than by legislation, the federal government seeks to negate this preexisting power of the states to verify a person's immigration status and similarly seeks to reject the assistance that the states can lawfully provide to the Federal government," the brief states.

The brief doesn't represent the first

time Cox has clashed with the Obama administration. Earlier this year, he joined with more than a dozen other attorney general to file a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of federal health care changes signed into law by the Democratic president.

Like with his stance on health care, the immigration brief again puts Cox at odds with Democratic Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm. Granholm, who can't seek reelection because of term limits, disagrees with the Arizona law, her press secretary Liz Boyd said. The Michigan primary is less than three weeks away on Aug. 3.

court appearance

Harris-Moore was deported by the Bahamas to the U.S. on Tuesday, shortly after pleading guilty to illegally entering the island nation east of Miami. Harris-Moore's long odyssey on the lam ended Sunday after police ended a high-speed boat chase by shooting out the vessel's engine.

Harris-Moore's attorney in the Bahamas, Monique Gomez, said the U.S. Embassy there would pay the teenager's \$300 fine.

Authorities say he earned the "Barefoot Bandit" nickname by committing some crimes while shoeless, and in February he allegedly drew chalk-outline feet all over the floor of a grocery store during a burglary in Washington's San Juan Islands.

Accused 'Barefoot Bandit' has US

MIAMI (AP)—The teenager dubbed the "Barefoot Bandit" by authorities will cool his heels in a Miami jail at least two more days while he sorts out which attorney will represent him.

At his first U.S. court appearance Wednesday since his arrest in the Bahamas, Colton Harris-Moore, 19, told U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Dube he thought his mother had hired a lawyer but he didn't know the attorney's name.

"I'd like to speak with my mom first," said Harris-Moore, dressed in a standard tan prison jumpsuit, sandals and white socks. He added that he last spoke to his mother, Pam Kohler, "about a week ago."

"She said that she hired one," he said. "I have not met with him yet."

Dube set another hearing for Fri-

day morning to determine Harris-

Moore's legal representation, whether he should be released on bail and when he should return to Seattle to face an alleged two-year string of crimes. Harris-Moore is suspected in about 70 burglaries, thefts and other property crimes in eight states and British Columbia, including thefts of aircraft—one of which he allegedly flew from Indiana to the Bahamas.

Kohler has asked Seattle defense attorney John Henry Browne to represent her son in the criminal case, which currently involves the alleged theft of a plane in Idaho that was crashed in Washington state. Browne has said he will handle it if Harris-Moore agrees. Another attorney, O. Yale Lewis, is helping Kohler with media and enter-

tainment requests.

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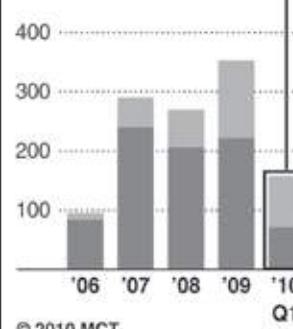
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State immigration laws not new

In filing its lawsuit against Arizona's immigration bill, the U.S. Justice Department is arguing that federal law supersedes state legislation. State laws on immigration are relatively common. In the first quarter of this year, 34 states enacted 71 laws regarding immigration.

State immigration

■ Resolutions adopted
■ Laws enacted



Q1 2010: 87 resolutions, 34 laws passed by these states



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

Texas mayor apparently shot teen daughter, self

COPPELL, Texas (AP)—The mayor of an upscale Dallas suburb apparently shot her teenage daughter to death before fatally shooting herself, but only after leaving notes at their home warning officers about the scene they would find and outlining how to manage family affairs, police said Wednesday.

An envelope taped to the front door of Mayor Jayne Peters' home contained a key to the house and a typed note advising police they would discover something unpleasant inside, Coppell Deputy Police Chief Steve Thomas said.

Three other notes contained instructions for handling affairs, such as taking care of the family dogs, but did not provide explanations for the deaths of Peters and her 19-year-old daughter, Corinne.

"It appeared to me that there had been some thought," Thomas said.

Police found the bodies Tuesday after the mayor failed to show up at a city council meeting. They said the Dallas County Medical Examiner's Office ruled Wednesday that the case should be officially classified as a homicide-suicide investigation.

"Forensic tests (and) procedures performed point to Corinne being the victim in this tragedy, with Mayor

Peters subsequently taking her own life," police said in a statement. "Both of the fatal injuries are a result of a single gun shot wounds."

Thomas said the weapon was a semiautomatic handgun and there were no signs of a struggle.

"Everybody in the room is like, 'Did we miss a sign?'" Bob Mahalik, mayor pro tem who is now acting mayor of the city, said of council members' reaction to the deaths. "It's hard to wrap your arms around it."

Mahalik said he had a gut feeling something wasn't right when the mayor didn't turn up for the meeting.

"But nowhere in your wildest dreams did you think it would be that far not right," he said.

A small collection of flowers, wreaths and cards decorated the front porch of the Peters' 3,850 square-foot brick home, where the mayor and her daughter lived alone. A printed letter said: "Please know that you are loved no matter what happens. I know that God is with you and giving you comfort. You both are with Don, a wonderful husband and father. A family again."

The mayor's husband, Donald Peters, died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 58.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cheney recuperating after heart surgery last week

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Vice President Dick Cheney disclosed Wednesday that he has undergone surgery to install a small pump to help his heart work, as the 69-year-old enters a new phase of what he called "increasing congestive heart failure." "The operation went very well and I am now recuperating," a still-hospitalized Cheney said in a statement. The kind of heart pump that Cheney received can be implanted next to the heart to help its main pumping chamber, the left ventricle, pump blood through the body. Such devices are used mainly for short periods, to buy potential transplant candidates time as they

await a donor organ. But they are being studied for use as a permanent therapy for people with severe heart failure who aren't transplant candidates.

Revs. Sharpton, Jackson downplay tea party issue

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton sought Wednesday to steer attention away from an NAACP resolution condemning racism within the tea party movement, saying focus should remain on jobs and an upcoming march in Washington. Jackson deflected questions about the resolution at a news conference during the annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Kansas City. "We will not

be diverted or otherwise distracted by any other message except putting America back to work," Jackson said a day after convention delegates approved the resolution. "We want jobs and justice and peace."

Explosion at Pittsburgh-area coke plant hurts 21

CLAIRTON, Pa. (AP)—An oven at a U.S. Steel plant near Pittsburgh exploded Wednesday, injuring 21 workers, at least three critically, causing a fire that burned for hours, emergency officials said. The powerful blast in the coke oven at United States Steel Corp.'s Clairton Coke Works happened around 9:30 a.m., Allegheny County spokesman Kevin Evans said. Most of the workers suffered burns; one suffered

chest pains. "It's a miracle that anybody even walked away from that," Allegheny County Emergency Services Chief Bob Full told reporters at the scene. He said the explosion was so mighty it bent steel beams and destroyed block walls. Everyone had been accounted for, and the cause of the explosion was being investigated, union and company officials said. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration had a team of investigators on site, spokeswoman Leni Fortson said.

Helena school board gets earful on sex ed proposal

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A proposed sex education program that teaches fifth-graders the different ways people

have intercourse and first-graders about gay love has infuriated parents and forced the school board to take a closer look at the issue. Helena school trustees were swamped Tuesday night at a hearing that left many of the hundreds of parents in attendance standing outside a packed board room. They urged the school board in this city nestled in the Rocky Mountains to take the sex education program back to the drawing board. The proposed 62-page document covers a broad health and nutrition education program and took two years to draft. But it is the small portion dealing with sexual education that has drawn the ire of many in the community who feel it is being pushed forward despite its obvious controversial nature.

Asia

Power back after typhoon kills 26 in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Electricity was restored in the Philippine capital, flights resumed and schools reopened Thursday after the first typhoon of the season killed at least 26 people and plunged most of the main northern island into darkness.

Thirty-eight people remained missing, mostly fishermen caught by Typhoon Conson's fury at sea.

Electricity was restored to most of Manila and nearby provinces after Conson, packing winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour, slammed ashore late Tuesday and early

Wednesday, toppling power lines, downing trees and ripping off roofs and tarpaulin billboards.

Flights at the Manila international airport also resumed and schools reopened.

Heavy rains, unrelated to the typhoon, have also wreaked havoc in China and Japan. The death toll from rain-triggered landslides rose to 41 in western China, and workers raced to drain overflowing reservoirs in the southeast. Flooding has killed more than 100 people in China so far this month, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Storm in southern and west-

ern Japan left two dead and three missing.

An elderly woman drowned in a swollen river and another woman in her 70s was found buried in a landslide in Hiroshima, western Japan, according to Hiroshima police. Two women in their 70s also were missing there, as was an 82-year-old man in neighboring Shimane prefecture.

More rain was predicted Thursday in both Japan and China. Conson, which weakened into a tropical storm over the South China Sea, was forecast to make another landfall along the Chinese-Vietnamese

rea's health care system. The report was based on interviews with more than 40 North Koreans who have defected, mostly to South Korea, as well as organizations and health care professionals who work with North Koreans. However, Amnesty researchers did not have direct access to North Korea, one of the world's most closed countries.

There was no immediate reaction from North Korea, which is sensitive to outside criticism of its political and human rights conditions and usually responds through its state-controlled media, though sometimes days or even weeks later.

The Amnesty report said health facilities in North Korea are run down, with frequent outages of power and heat because of energy shortages, forcing doctors to perform duties with only daylight or by candlelight.

"During operations, patients, if lucky, are given anesthesia but sometimes not enough to completely control the pain," it said. "Without essential medicines, health facilities in North Korea clearly cannot provide services such as surgery without endangering the lives of their patients."

A 24-year-old defector from northeastern Hamkyong province told Amnesty that a doctor amputated his left leg from the calf down without administering anesthesia after his left ankle was crushed by a moving train when he fell from one of the carriages.

"Five medical assistants held my arms and legs down to keep me from moving. I was in so much pain that I screamed and eventually fainted from pain," said the man, identified only by his family name, Hwang. "I woke up one week later in a hospital bed."

border this weekend.

In the Philippines, many died while fleeing the typhoon's fury, regional disaster operations officer Fred Bragas said. The 26 deaths were spread over six provinces and areas near Manila.

Newly elected President Benigno Aquino III scolded the weather bureau for failing to predict that the storm would hit Manila, which left government agencies unprepared for the onslaught.

The Philippines is hit by

about 20 typhoons and storms a year, gaining a reputation as the welcome mat for the most destructive cyclones from the Pacific. Last year, back-to-back typhoons inundated Manila and outlying provinces, killing nearly 1,000 people.



AP

Residents wade through a flooded street at Las Pinas, south of Manila on Wednesday July 14, 2010 hours after typhoon Conson lashed through Manila and other provinces in the Philippines.

Afghan attacks kill 8 US troops in 24 hours

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—American forces suffered a deadly 24 hours in Afghanistan, with eight troops killed in attacks including an audacious Taliban raid on a police compound in the key southern city of Kandahar, officials said Wednesday.

The U.S. and its coalition allies have warned that violence and troop casualties are likely to mount this summer as thousands of new forces fan out across southern insurgent strongholds in a bid to turn around the nearly 9-year-long war.

However, a top U.S. commander in the south said Wednesday that the new operation should start reducing violence.

in coming months.

So far in July, 45 coalition troops have died in Afghanistan, 33 of them Americans, continuing the upward trend of the previous month, which was war's deadliest for the NATO-led force, with 103 international soldiers killed.

A suicide attacker slammed a car bomb into the gate of the headquarters of the elite Afghan National Civil Order Police late Tuesday night in Kandahar, the international force said. Minutes later, insurgents opened fire with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Three U.S. troops, an Afghan policeman and five civilians—

three interpreters and two security guards—died in the attack, but NATO said the insurgents failed to enter the compound.

Four more American troops were killed elsewhere in the south Wednesday by a roadside bomb, while one more U.S. service member died the same day of wounds from a gunbattle, also in the south. NATO gave no further details of those attacks.

The special Civil Order Police had only recently sent 600 more officers to Kandahar to set up checkpoints along with international forces to try to secure the south's largest city, the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban.

NKorea, US-led UN Command meet to discuss sinking

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Military officers from North Korea and the American-led U.N. Command met Thursday for talks on the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship that has been blamed on Pyongyang.

Colonel-level officers gathered at the Korean border village of Panmunjom for about 90 minutes, U.N. Command spokesman Kim Yong-kyu said. He gave no further details about the discussions—the first between the sides since the March 26 sinking dramatically raised tension on the Korean peninsula.

An international investigation in May concluded a North Korean submarine fired a torpedo

that sank the 1,200-ton Cheonan near the tense Korean sea border, killing 46 South Korean sailors. Pyongyang flatly denies it was responsible and has warned any punishment would trigger war.

The talks originally were set for Tuesday, but the North canceled just before they were to start, requesting a delay for unspecified "administrative reasons." It later proposed they be held Thursday and the U.N. Command accepted.

It was unclear what was talked about at the meeting. South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the sides were believed to have discussed preparations for

talks among higher-level military officers. The report didn't cite a source.

Yonhap earlier Thursday said the North was expected to reiterate its contention that South Korea and the U.S. fabricated the investigation results. The U.N. Command would likely argue the Cheonan was attacked by a North Korean torpedo and it was a violation of the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953, Yonhap said.

The U.N. Command, which oversees the truce, separately investigated whether the sinking violated the truce, though the findings have not been disclosed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Protesters, police face off on streets of Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—The capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir is seething with rage. Over the past month, crowds of young men demanding independence from India have held mass protests and pounded police with stones. Authorities hit back with rolling curfews, large-scale arrests and a rare deployment by the army into the streets of Srinagar. The violence, which has killed 15 protesters and bystanders, set a tense backdrop for a meeting Thursday between the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan, nuclear-armed neighbors that fought two wars over the divided Himalayan region and have been unable to reach agreement over its future. Hopes for the talks were further clouded after the top official in Pakistan-held Kashmir called on thousands of members of banned militant groups Tuesday to drive India out of all of Kashmir.

US moves on properties of former Taiwan leader

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The United States is seeking to take over two properties in New York and Virginia owned by former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian and his wife, who were convicted in Taiwan on corruption charges last year. The U.S. Justice Department filed complaints Wednesday in New York and Virginia al-

leging part of \$6 million paid in bribes to Chen's wife, Wu Shu-chen, was used to purchase an apartment in Manhattan and a house in Keswick, Virginia. According to the complaints, Taiwan's Yuanta Securities Co. Ltd. paid the bribe to ensure its bid to acquire additional shares in the island's Fuhwa Financial Holding Company Limited would not be blocked by authorities.

Bomb scare forces emergency landing in west China

BEIJING (AP)—A commercial jet flying from a western China region wracked by ethnic violence made an emergency landing after receiving a bomb threat, a police official and state media said Thursday. No bomb was found aboard the China Southern plane after it landed late Wednesday in the city of Lanzhou, the Xinhua News Agency reported. It said the plane was on its way to the southern commercial center of Guangzhou after taking off from the city of Urumqi, capital of the western border region of Xinjiang when it received the bomb threat. Urumqi and Xinjiang have been beset for decades by ethnic tensions and a simmering rebellion waged by members of the mainly Muslim Uighur ethnic group. The bomb scare comes just a week after the first anniversary of rioting in Urumqi between Uighurs and members of the Han Chinese majority that left nearly 200 dead.

World

Iranian nuclear scientist back home from US

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—An Iranian nuclear scientist claimed Thursday that he suffered extreme mental and physical torture at the hands of U.S. interrogators after disappearing last year, adding to Tehran's allegations he was abducted by American agents.

The U.S. says he was a willing defector who changed his mind and decided to board a plane home from Washington.

Shahram Amiri was embraced by his family—including his tearful 7-year-old son—after arriving in Tehran in the latest spectacle of a puzzling series of events that left Iran and Washington with starkly different accounts. Amiri flashed a V-for-victory sign as he stepped into the terminal.

Iran has portrayed the return of Amiri as a blow to American intelligence services that were desperate for inside information on Iran's nuclear program. Iran has sought maximum propaganda value—allowing journalists to cover Amiri's return and having a top envoy from Iran's Foreign Ministry on hand to greet him.

Washington described the 32-year-old Amiri as someone who reached out to U.S. officials, but have offered few other details.

Speaking to journalists after a flight via Qatar, Amiri repeated his earlier claims that he was snatched while on a pilgrimage last year in the Saudi holy city of Medina and carried off to the United States.

He claimed he was under intense pressures during the first few months after his alleged kidnapping.

"I was under the harshest mental and



Shahram Amiri, an Iranian nuclear scientist who disappeared a year ago, wipes sweat during his news briefing while holding his 7-year-old son Amir Hossein as he arrived at the Imam Khomeini airport just outside Tehran, Iran, Thursday, July 15, 2010. AP

physical torture," he said at Tehran's international airport, with his young son sitting on his lap.

He also alleged that Israeli agents were present during the interrogations and that CIA officers offered him \$50 million to remain in America. He gave no further details to back up the claims or shed any new light on his time in the United States,

but promised to reveal more later.

"I have some documents proving that I've not been free in the United States and have always been under the control of armed agents of U.S. intelligence services," he told reporters.

He sought to downplay his role in Iran's nuclear program—which Washington and allies fear could be used

to create atomic weapons. Iran says it only seeks energy-producing reactors.

"I am a simple researcher who was

working in the university," he said. "I'm not involved in any confidential jobs. I had no classified information."

Iraq faces new test in US handover of last prison

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military has handed over Tariq Aziz and dozens of other members of Saddam Hussein's inner circle to Iraqi authorities who will assume control Thursday of the last American-run detention facility in the country.

Although the Americans will continue to hold 200 problematic detainees, the changing of the guard at Camp Cropper will mean the end of a mammoth U.S. prison system that has processed more than 100,000 Iraqis in the seven years since the fall of Baghdad.

It will also close a chapter on one of the most bitter legacies of the war, the shocking images in 2004 of prisoners being abused by American soldiers at Abu Ghraib.

For Iraq, the transfer of detainees marks a milestone on the road to full sovereignty. But it also puts to the test a democratically elected government that many believe has learned few positive lessons from the abuses of Saddam's regime.

Despite Abu Ghraib—or perhaps because of reforms in its wake—prisoners have more recently said they receive far better treatment in American custody than in Iraqi jails.

The revelation this year of a make-

shift Iraqi prison where Sunni detainees were allegedly tortured was a black eye for the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Prisoners in other facilities have repeatedly complained about torture and beatings by the police, as well as overcrowding and poor conditions behind bars.

Camp Cropper, which currently houses about 1,800 inmates on the southwestern outskirts of Baghdad near the international airport, is the last of three U.S. prisons handed over to Iraqi control. Camp Bucca was transferred last September, and Camp Taji, a detention facility at an air base just north of Baghdad, in January.

Iraqi officials insist they are ready.

"We have been running dozens of prisons, and we are confident of our ability to run all prisons," Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim told The Associated Press.

Ibrahim said Wednesday that 55 former regime figures have been handed over to Iraq—26 this week and 29 about 10 months ago. Only one faces the death penalty: Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Ghafoor, a senior Baath Party official convicted for his role in crushing a Shiite uprising in 1991, Ibrahim said.

Argentine Senate considers same-sex marriage law

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's senators debated in a marathon session early Thursday as they prepared to vote on whether to make their nation the first in Latin America to grant same-sex marriages all the rights of heterosexual unions.

The gay marriage proposal has the firm support of President Cristina Fernandez, but is strongly opposed by the Roman Catholic Church and evangelical groups, which drew 60,000 people to a march on Congress on the eve of the pivotal vote.

Approved by Argentina's lower house in May, gay marriage would automatically become law if approved

by a Senate majority, but with each senator voting his or her conscience, the outcome was anything but clear. Voting wasn't expected to begin until sometime early Thursday morning.

As the debate stretched on for more than 12 hours, supporters and opponents of held rival vigils through the frigid night outside the Congress building in Buenos Aires.

"Marriage between a man and a woman has existed for centuries, and is essential for the perpetuation of the species," insisted Sen. Juan Perez Alsinia, who is usually a loyal supporter of the president but gave a passionate

speech against gay marriage.

But Sen. Norma Morandini, another member of the president's party, compared the discrimination closeted gays face to the oppression imposed by Argentina's dictators decades ago. "What defines us is our humanity, and what runs against humanity is intolerance."

Same-sex civil unions have been legalized in Uruguay, Buenos Aires and some states in Mexico and Brazil. Mexico City has legalized gay marriage. Colombia's Constitutional Court granted same-sex couples inheritance rights and allowed them to add their partners to health insurance plans.

Mexican president replaces top security official

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's president accepted the resignation Wednesday of his top domestic security official, Interior Secretary Fernando Gomez Mont, and named a former congressman with experience in fighting drug cartels to replace him.

President Felipe Calderon praised the hands-on experience the new federal interior secretary, Jose Francisco Blake, gained serving in the same post at the state level in Baja California, a border state plagued by drug violence.

"In that position, he has played a fundamental role in confronting in a decisive way the problems of vio-

lence in that state," Calderon said of Blake, who will oversee the multi-agency national security council.

"The knowledge he has of crime, and the good relations he managed to build between the police and army in the fight against crime in Baja California, will without doubt be of great value in strengthening the fight for public safety," Calderon said.

Mexico's federal police and the army have played the leading roles in a war against drug cartels that has cost more than 22,700 lives since Calderon announced an anti-drug offensive in late 2006.

But in many regions, the army has

voiced mistrust of corruption-ridden local police forces.

The Interior Department that Blake will head plays a key role in coordinating efforts between the forces and intelligence gathering. It also recently began promoting a series of social programs it said are aimed at reducing the poverty and unemployment that contribute to the drug problem.

One of the challenges facing the new interior secretary will be gaining approval for a government proposal to combine scattered, ill-equipped and poorly supervised city police forces into single, statewide forces.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nigeria: 5 die in new religious violence

JALINGO, Nigeria (AP)—An attack on a mosque by youths in eastern Nigeria erupted into bloodshed, leaving at least five people dead as religious violence continued between Christians and Muslims in Africa's most populous nation, witnesses and police said Wednesday. The violence began Tuesday in the community of Wukari in Taraba state, police commissioner Aliyu Musa told The Associated Press. There, Christians upset with a mosque in their neighborhood burned the house of worship to the ground, the commissioner said. Street fighting erupted between Christian and Muslim youths, leaving at least five people dead, witnesses said. A local reporter told the AP that he counted at least 15 wounded at one public hospital, while being told others sought treatment at private clinics.

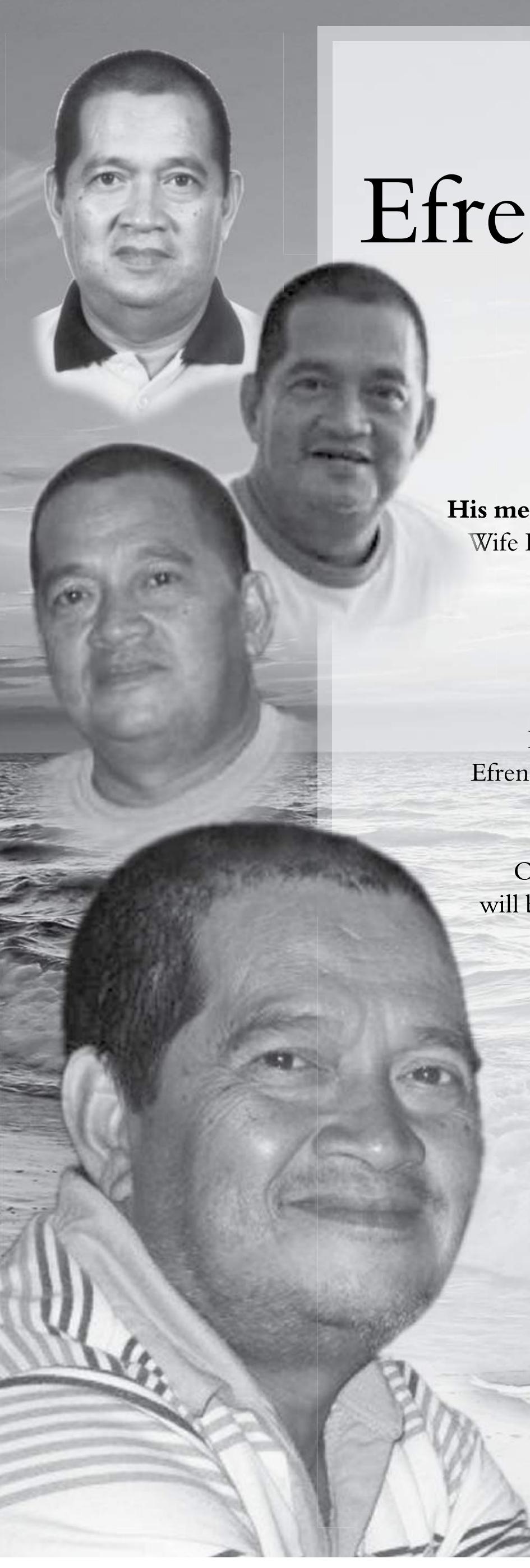
Court rules torture lawsuits against UK continue

LONDON (AP)—Former Guantanamo detainees can proceed with lawsuits accusing Britain of complicity in torture overseas, a High Court judge ruled Wednesday, rejecting a government request to suspend the action. Britain had asked a judge to direct the six men, and six others who plan to launch similar

cases, to halt their lawsuits and focus on reaching out of court settlements, allowing an independent inquiry into the accusations to begin. But High Court judge Stephen Silber ruled that the men can press ahead with their cases, even if their lawyers decide to take part in mediation talks aimed at reaching a deal outside the courts. Some documents giving a taste of what might be released in the inquiry also were released, showing an often-confused government position under former Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Libyan ship with aid for Gaza reaches Egypt port

EL-ARISH, Egypt (AP)—A Libyan aid ship blocked by Israeli missile ships from steaming to Gaza reached an Egyptian port Wednesday, bringing an end to the latest challenge to Israel's naval embargo of the Palestinian territory. The director of the Egyptian port of el-Arish, Gamal Abdel Maqsoud, said the Libyan boat radioed Wednesday evening asking permission to dock there. He said the ship, the Moldovan-flagged Amalthea, was 15 miles (24 kilometers) off the Egyptian coast. The ship reached the waiting area Wednesday evening, but has yet to dock because the captain is seeking clearance from the shipment's organizers, Abdel Maqsoud said. It appeared likely the cargo would be unloaded Thursday.



IN CELEBRATION OF
HIS NEW LIFE

Efren Santos Mejia

Lovingly known as "Tata Ef"

DOB: December 12, 1953

DOD: July 14, 2010

In His new life he now joins his:

Father, Julian Mejia Sr.

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife Flaviana P. Mejia, Children & Grandchildren,

Mother, Brothers and Sisters.

Tata Ef will also be missed by his
numerous Relatives and Friends.

Holy Mass, viewing and last respects for
Efren Santos Mejia will be on Sunday July 18 from
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at CHC Chapel.

On Wednesday, July 21, 2010, our beloved
will be transported to Marikina City, Philippines,
for Memorial and Burial Services.

Your thoughts and prayers
are deeply appreciated.
Thank you and Maraming Salamat Po.

The Family



Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Jail for Ohio woman who gave kids sleep supplement

CINCINNATI (AP)—A former Ohio church day care worker has

received a jail sentence for slipping an over-the-counter dietary supplement into candy she gave to children to get them to sleep at nap time. Fifty-six-year-old Pamela Hartley of the Cincinnati area was convicted in May of three counts of child endangering and three counts of misrepresentation by a child care provider.

MEMORIAL SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

for the late

Dr. 'Mau' Pius Piaiulug

Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 6:00pm at the
Santa Soledad Chruch Kagman.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30pm at the residence of his son Henry Yarofalipiy in Kagman II, behind Kagman Headstart.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From The Family



In Humble Gratitude

We, the family of the late

Maria Pura Mareham Tagabuel Billy

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us.

Your presence and prayers at the daily masses and most especially at the Mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us to all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank You, Si Yuus Ma'ase and Ghilisow.

Dakasy F. Billy, Children & Family



Hamilton County Municipal Judge Melissa Powers sentenced her Wednesday to six months, but suspended all but 30 days and put her on three years' probation afterward. Powers said Hartley was giving melatonin to children at the suburban church day care to make her job easier. Powers ordered her not to work as a child care provider again.

Men accused of beating Porky Pig at theme park

GURNEE, Ill. (AP)—Police said authorities at Six Flags Great America ejected two off-duty employees from the theme park after they allegedly attacked a female colleague dressed as "Porky Pig." Gurnee Police Sgt. Jon Ward says two young men took a photo with Porky on Monday afternoon, and then punched the mascot in the head 10 to 15 times. Ward said park security detained the men until police arrived. He said the men were issued local ordinance citations for battery. He said the suspects denied the attack, but witnesses confirmed the story. The 24-year-old woman inside the mascot costume suffered headaches and a stiff neck.

Sailboaters moon Washington state ferry

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash. (AP)—It was full moon time after a Washington state ferry took evasive maneuvers to avoid a sailboat in its path. The Kitsap Sun reported the ferry sounded its horn and reversed engines Saturday afternoon to avoid hitting the boat at Eagle Harbor, near Bainbridge Island. The sailboat briefly disappeared from the ferry crew's view as they passed. When it was seen again, four men on board dropped their pants

and mooned the crew.

Woman, 75, runs into Atlanta liquor store—again

ATLANTA (AP)—Authorities said a 75-year-old woman drove her car through the front of an Atlanta liquor store on Monday—and it's not the first time. Constance Chapman tells police her brakes went out Monday afternoon while she was trying to park at Green's package store along Ponce de Leon Avenue, a major thoroughfare in the city's Midtown neighborhood. Her white Mazda Miata crashed through the front window, pinning worker Jenetha Gardiner between a broken window and a shelf. Gardiner was taken to Atlanta Medical Center to be treated for a head injury caused by a falling bottle of liquor. Chapman told police this is the second time she has done this at Green's. Authorities said the wreck shattered 1,500 bottles of alcohol.

Woman finds out LeBron pendant worth nearly \$10K

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio woman paid \$5 for a LeBron James pendant at a yard sale, thinking it was costume jewelry. But the International Gemological Institute said Vaneisha Robinson's find is the real deal, ringing in at nearly \$10,000. Robinson, 20, said she used to wear the jersey-shaped pendant to high school when she didn't know its value. Then she had it appraised. Gemologist Jerry Ehrenwald said the 14-karat white gold pendant sports more than 2 carats of diamonds. The number 23 jersey reads "King" on the front and "James" on the back. Robinson, who's an amateur boxer in James' hometown of Akron, Ohio, listed the jewelry on eBay. She said the King's brand will never die, even after he left the Cleveland Cavaliers to play for the Miami Heat.

Man at border: Ankle monitor is support for Lohan

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Border agents said a New York man who's on probation and not supposed to leave the country explained away the ankle monitor he was wearing while returning from Canada as a show of support for actress Lindsay Lohan. Customs and Border Protection officers found the bracelet around 29-year-old Eugene Todie's ankle July 9 after he allegedly tried to re-enter the country using someone else's passport. Officers said Todie told them a probation officer friend gave him the bracelet to wear for Lohan, who's had to wear an alcohol ankle monitor. Record checks showed the Buffalo man is on probation for criminal contempt. Todie appeared in federal court Tuesday on misuse of a passport and lying charges and must return with a lawyer July 20. A telephone listing couldn't be found.

Miss. man gives beloved sports shoes to the needy

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP)—It was a slam-dunk of a good deed. Jeffrey Nickson said he heard two men scheming to shoplift some sports shoes from a local store and told them they didn't need to steal. He went home, took two pairs of Air Jordans from his own collection of 25 pairs and gave the shoes to the men. Nickson told The Greenwood Commonwealth that he then started thinking about how other people need shoes. So he went to the Salvation Army and donated 20 pairs of mint-condition size 14 Air Jordans that he said were valued between \$125 and \$200 a set. Nickson works for an electronics firm in the Delta. He collected the shoes for years, keeping them clean and in their original boxes.

Australian bitten while trying to sit on crocodile

PERTH, Australia (AP)—A man ejected from a pub in Australia broke into a zoo and climbed onto the back of a crocodile named Fatso, which bit him on the leg but then let him go. Police said they're surprised the croc didn't inflict worse damage. The 36-year-old man, who police said had just been thrown out of a pub for being drunk, told officials he scaled the barbed wire fence surrounding the Broome Crocodile Park in remote northwest Australia on Monday night because he wanted to give the 16-foot Fatso a pat. "He has attempted to sit on its back and the croc has taken offense to that and has spun around and bit him on the right leg," Broome Police Sgt. Roger Haynes said. The saltwater crocodile then inexplicably let the man go, and he climbed back over the fence to safety, police said. The man, who was a tourist from eastern Australia and whose name was not released, suffered some "very nasty lacerations" and was taken to a hospital, Haynes said. "Saltwater crocodiles ... once they get hold of you, are not renowned for letting you go," Haynes said. "He's lucky to have escaped with his life."

Police: Man torches car, posts photos on Facebook

BELFAST, Maine (AP)—A 36-year-old man was arrested on Monday and faces a felony arson charge after he allegedly set a Mercedes-Benz on fire and then posted photos of the burning vehicle on Facebook. The Bangor Daily News said the arrest came two weeks after police found the burning 1982 Mercedes. Police said the man told officers he saw the car with a "small campfire" in the back seat. The Bangor Daily News said the charge came after police scrutinized surveillance tape from a Belfast store and seized the man's cell phones and computer. Police said the owner of the non-working car had been trying to sell it.

Science & Technology

Consumer Reports won't recommend Apple iPhone 4

SEATTLE (AP)—A decision by Consumer Reports against endorsing the latest iPhone because of reception problems threatens to tarnish Apple Inc.'s reputation, yet fans who have braved poor reception for years are likely to keep buying the product.

In fact, some analysts say Apple could simply ignore calls by bloggers and others to recall the iPhone 4 or offer free cases to mitigate the problems.

As of Tuesday evening, Apple hadn't returned phone calls or e-mails about the Consumer Reports critique, which the venerable arbiter of product quality posted on its website Monday. While some Apple watchers find the company's responses to the reception issue objectionable, they don't see any penalties for Apple if it does nothing further.

People buy iPhones for emotional reasons, not because they're the best phones, said Deborah Mitchell, executive director of the Center for Brand and Product Management at the University of Wisconsin.

"People see you using the iPhone, and they think you are a certain type of person—hip, fresh and youthful in attitude," she said. "It's a brand that helps

you identify yourself."

The iPhone has also been ahead of competitors when it comes to features such as easy Web browsing and shopping for music, movies and applications to download.

Greg Brown, a retired Philadelphia Eagles football player who lives in Sicklerville, N.J., said he has overlooked the iPhone's propensity for dropping calls because of congestion on the network of AT&T Inc., the iPhone's exclusive U.S. wireless carrier.

"When I am talking on the phone I like to finish the conversation before the phone call ends," Brown said. "But I forgive it because of all the features."

Consumer Reports said it won't endorse the iPhone 4 as "recommended" because tests show that simply holding the gadget can cause reception to fade. Although Consumer Reports only recommends a handful of phones that it considers exceptional, this was the first time the publication isn't giving an iPhone its "recommended" stamp of approval.

The publication's tests confirmed suspicions from many iPhone customers. Hours after the iPhone 4 launched

on June 24, people were writing on Apple's support website that gripping the phone a certain way made it show fewer "bars" of cell signal strength and even caused calls to disconnect.

The company's first response came in a curt note attributed to CEO Steve Jobs, who told one iPhone buyer to either hold the phone a different way or buy a case.

After complaints persisted, Apple issued a formal letter saying an illusion caused by software was the culprit. For years, the iPhone had been showing people too many bars, a problem Apple says it plans to fix with a software update. At least then, dropped calls in areas with weak networks wouldn't come as a surprise.

Apple also said all phones, not just the iPhone, have reception problems when a user's hand covers the antenna.

Consumer Reports, however, believes Apple is dodging responsibility for a larger hardware problem.

This doesn't mean Consumer Reports believes the iPhone 4 is all bad, editor Mike Gikas said. It outperformed every other smart phone on the market in other regards. And avoiding the problem



then finding a leak in the basement," Gikas said.

Carolina Milanesi, an analyst for Gartner Inc., said she believes Jobs' early e-mail was an atypical public-relations blunder on Apple's part.

"Reception is pretty crucial. You can't tell people, 'You can't hold the phone that way,'" Milanesi said.

A year or two ago, his comments might have prompted jokes, she said. But now, Apple is the world's largest technology company by market capitalization, and Jobs' remarks are being perceived as arrogant. But while that could turn off new customers, Milanesi thinks most people won't recall this flap when it comes time to buy an iPhone 4—more likely, they'll be agonizing over whether to buy the white or black model.

Brian Marshall, a Gleacher & Co. analyst who is typically very positive about Apple, was horrified when Apple said it had used a bad formula for calculating signal strength.

"That, to me, is atrocious," Marshall said. "It's so un-Apple-like. It shows a lack of attention to detail. Apple is a company that doesn't mess things up."

TECH Q&A

BlackBerry maker steps in to help a frustrated customer

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: My cell phone provider says there's corrupted data in one of my BlackBerry contact list entries that is not allowing the phone to sync with my PC.

With more than 1,800 contact list entries that I need to sync between the two, I don't know where to start looking for a solution.

It started with an error message I got while attempting to sync my BlackBerry 8320 series phone with my PC, which runs the 64-bit version of Windows 7.

The error message says "unable to read application data" because the program is "processing device address book." The problem always occurs on file number 1783.

How can I fix this?—Sam Fadel, Miami

ANSWER: BlackBerry manufacturer Research In Motion has agreed to help you by providing personal technical assistance.

RIM has determined that your problem is not a compatibility issue between the BlackBerry software and Windows 7, said spokeswoman Rachel Colley. She suggested downloading the latest version of the BlackBerry Desktop Manager software at tinyurl.com/y89xotk, because that "will solve issues with contact corruption for many people who are running older versions."

You did that, and said it didn't solve the problem.

Colley also suggested downloading some diagnostic software at tinyurl.com/23fwpl,

which you did. That software will create a log of your phone's activities so that a RIM technician can review it online to find a solution.

Colley will be in touch with you shortly to set up a free technical support call. Keep me posted on how it goes.

Q: My Windows XP computer recently got a virus and crashed. After having it repaired, I discovered that a program I depended on, Print Shop Deluxe, wouldn't function because its "print wizard" didn't work.

Because I publish a newsletter and had a deadline approaching, I installed Print Shop on my wife's PC and manually entered all the names and addresses.

What can I do to get the "print wizard" in Print Shop Deluxe working on my computer again? Can I move the installed program from my wife's PC to mine?—Bob Buffington, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A: You can't move an installed program from one computer to another. Instead, you should reinstall Print Shop Deluxe on your PC. That should make the program's "print wizard" work by replacing files accidentally deleted during your PC repairs. You'll need to enter the names and addresses again, and restore any customized settings.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

In the age of Facebook, divorce battles go digital

By SARAH LUNDY
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

The ex-husband swears he's living paycheck to paycheck—not enough to shell out more money in child support.

But his Facebook page tells a different story.

After the July Fourth weekend, the Orlando, Fla., man bragged online about his stay at an expensive South Florida hotel and even attached photos, Orlando private investigator James Copenhaver said.

Busted.

Facebook and other social networks, such as Twitter, Flickr, Photobucket and MySpace, are becoming the latest legal tool in divorce and child-support battles.

Attorneys and private investigators collecting background on a client's ex-spouse are trolling the websites as a quick and easy way to catch someone doing something they don't want brought up in court—snapshots of snuggling with a mistress, semi-nude photos with children nearby or drunken

Busted.

Florida is considered a "no-fault" divorce state, which means couples don't have to point to a specific reason—or person—for the split. But that doesn't mean dirt isn't tossed back and forth during discussions about alimony, child support and time spent with children.

"I think those pages are being printed

and thrown around a courtroom quite a bit," said Tennis.

Many say so far they use it more in

negotiations than in evidence submitted in court.

Google finances projects to test digital library

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. is giving researchers nearly a half-million dollars to test the academic value of its rapidly growing online library.

The grants announced Wednesday will be used to help pay for 12 humanities projects studying questions that will require sifting through thousands of books to reach meaningful conclusions.

Google is hoping the research will validate its long-held belief that making electronic copies of old books will bring greater enlightenment to the world. The company's critics, though, have argued that the Internet search leader has trampled over copyright laws to build a commanding early lead in digital books so it can boost profits.

The winners of Google's "digital humanities" awards include a project

party pictures from a bar on a weekend a child is visiting.

"It's happening a lot," said attorney Mark O'Mara. "Pictures are the worst."

Orlando lawyer Diana Tennis remembered a case in which her client was fighting for more time with his child. Tennis came across a Facebook picture of the opposing parent's new boyfriend proudly posing with a gun he just purchased.

"It can be used as leverage," she said, adding that's not the image the opposing parent wanted to portray before a judge.

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Google finances projects to test digital library

at George Mason University seeking to draw a more accurate portrait of the Victorian age through a deeper analysis of the vocabulary used in the books from that period.

Other researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles and the University of Washington are studying tools and techniques for automated library analysis.

The 23 scholars receiving \$479,000 in grants are scattered across 15 universities. They're eligible to apply next year for the remaining \$521,000 that Google has budgeted for its digital humanities awards.

Google set out in 2004 to make electronic copies of all the books in the world to feed more compelling material into its online search engine and make more human knowledge

Florida's Orange Circuit Court Judge Lisa Munyon, who is the administrative judge for family court, said she has seen some Facebook pages presented in court, but "it's not an overwhelming number."

She mentioned one case in which an attorney submitted a father's Facebook page, showing how he bragged about how much money he made. The lawyer used this to help prove he earned more money than he admitted in court.

So far no major legal issues have come up, but Munyon said there is potential. Attorneys have to prove the information actually came from the accused parent and is accurate.

Earlier this year, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers released a survey of divorce attorneys across the country and found 81 percent reported an increase in using social-networking evidence in the past five years.

"There isn't any good lawyer that doesn't utilize access to social media," said Terry Young, an attorney with the central Florida-based firm Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor & Reed, P.A.

Google finances projects to test digital library

available to anyone with an Internet connection.

But those book-scanning ambitions quickly became bogged down in legal battles over copyright issues that still haven't been resolved. Google has made digital copies of more than 12 million books so far, but they aren't all available to see because of a dispute centered on out-of-print books still protected by copyrights.

Google is still awaiting a federal judge's ruling on a proposed settlement that would give the company the digital rights to the out-of-print books. The U.S. Department of Justice, consumer watchdog groups and several of Google's rivals have objected to the agreement on the grounds that the settlement threatens to give Google too much power in the digital book market.

Life & Style



Bristol Palin, Levi Johnston say they're engaged

In this magazine cover image released by Us Weekly, Bristol Palin, daughter of 2008 Republican vice-presidential candidate and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, poses with Levi Johnston and their son Tripp on the cover of the July 26, 2010 issue of "Us Weekly" magazine.

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—The tumultuous relationship between Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston took another surprising turn Wednesday, when the couple announced they were back together and recently got engaged.

The abrupt reunion between Sarah Palin's daughter and the father of her toddler son felt like a flashback to 2008, when the couple shared the spotlight at the Republican National Convention. The romance later devolved into a messy tabloid drama as Johnston posed for Playgirl, trashed Sarah Palin in interviews and fought with the Palins over custody.

The fact that the two are back together isn't likely to be a bad thing for Sarah Palin as she leaves the door open to a possible run for president in 2012.

"I think that the best solution for her longterm, and that's a little calculating to say—but looking just purely from a political standpoint, the best solution for her is a successful reconciliation between Bristol and Levi," said Tim Miller, a public affairs

consultant who also worked on John McCain's campaign in Iowa before Palin joined the ticket as the vice presidential nominee in 2008.

In this week's celebrity glossy Us Weekly, 19-year-old Bristol Palin and 20-year-old Johnston say they're engaged, marking a rapid turnaround for the couple that just months ago was fighting over child support and Johnston's critical comments about the family.

The two are on the cover with their 18-month-old son, Tripp. The lead-in tease: "The reunited couple reveal their sudden, secret engagement—and why they hid it from Sarah."

They tell the magazine they reconnected while working out a custody plan and got engaged two weeks ago. Bristol Palin said she found the idea of telling her mother about the engagement "intimidating and scary" but hoped she'd "jump on board."

"It felt right, even though we don't have the approval of our parents," she said.

Sarah Palin, a former Alaska

governor, and her husband, Todd, released a statement saying that as parents, "we obviously want what is best for our children, but Bristol is ultimately in charge of determining what is best for her and her beautiful son."

"Bristol believes in redemption and forgiveness to a degree most of us struggle to put in practice in our daily lives," they said. "We pray that, as a couple, Bristol and Levi's relationship matures into one that will allow Tripp to grow up graced with two loving parents in his life."

A Palin aide didn't comment beyond the statement; Palin tweeted late Tuesday that she, Todd and daughter Willow were going to Denali National Park for some climbing: "cool air & elevation (equals) good 4 the soul," she wrote.

Johnston, who answered the door at Bristol Palin's condo in Anchorage on Wednesday afternoon, confirmed the engagement to The Associated Press but declined to provide further comment on it. He said he wasn't living at the condo.

Restored Da Vinci painting reveals hidden details



An undated image made available by the National Gallery in London of Leonardo da Vinci's Virgin on the Rocks before (left) and after restoration.

LONDON (AP)—A restoration project for Leonardo da Vinci's "Virgin of the Rocks" has revealed new details and suggest the Renaissance artist may have painted all the picture himself, instead of with his assistants as previously thought, a British gallery said Wednesday.

The 18-month conservation project involved removing much of some badly degraded varnish that was applied to the painting in the late 1940s, enabling experts to take a much closer look at the picture's brush strokes and styles, the National Gallery said.

The cleaning revealed the painting's full tonal range, especially in the darker areas, and resulted in a clearer sense of how

the artist intended for space to recede through the rocky landscape, the gallery said.

It also affirmed that Leonardo likely painted the entire picture himself and intended for it to be unfinished.

The restored painting showed a range of completion from the barely sketched hand of the angel to the fully realized heads of the main figures—consistent with many of Leonardo's works.

The Italian artist, said to be the "eternal perfectionist," is thought to have left his pictures unfinished because he wished to return to them later, gallery spokesman Thomas Almeroth-Williams said.

In the past, scholars believed the different levels of finish in

"Virgin of the Rocks" showed that Leonardo was helped by assistants.

The painting dates from about 1491 to 1508 and is a later version of one on display in the Louvre in Paris.

The latest cleaning project followed years of scrutiny of the masterpiece.

In 2005, experts using infrared technology found two drawings hidden beneath the surface of the picture—one design was never painted, and the second one revealed Leonardo changed his mind about the subject several times.

The painting goes back on display in the National Gallery on Wednesday.

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Inception

Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
 Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Leonardo DiCaprio, Marion Cotillard
 Action, Science fiction • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Warner Bros. presents the new film by The Dark Knight's Christopher Nolan, this one taking on a sci-fi psychological spin for the serious-minded action auteur, with Leonardo DiCaprio spearheading the cast. Emma Thomas serves as producer, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ken Watanabe, Marion Cotillard, Cillian Murphy, and Ellen Page rounding out the supporting roles.



The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
 Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel
 Fantasy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Based on the Fantasia short, Walt Disney resurrects the "Sorcerer's Apprentice" story with this children's fantasy film starring Jay Baruchel as an apprentice of a magician (Nicolas Cage) who makes a mess of their workshop when his master is out. Teresa Palmer plays the love interest in the Jon Turteltaub-helmed production.



Despicable Me

Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
 Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Steve Carell, Jason Segel
 Comedy, Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis

A man (voiced by Steve Carell) who's in the midst of making plans to steal the moon is sidetracked when he's put in charge of three orphans in this computer-generated 3-D animated film by directors Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin. Jason Segel, Kristen Wiig, Will Arnett, Danny McBride, Russell Brand, and Julie Andrews also lend their voices to the Universal Pictures production.



Predators

Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25

Adrien Brody, Alice Braga
 Action, Science fiction • Rated R

The Last Airbender

Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
 Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15

Noah Ringer, Nicola Peltz
 Adventure, Family • Rated PG



Twilight Saga: Eclipse

Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Grown Ups

Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
 Sun through Thurs 1:10 4:20 7:10

Adam Sandler, Kevin James
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Woman says she had photo of Stamos with cocaine

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan woman accused of plotting to scam John Stamos out of hundreds of thousands of dollars insisted Wednesday she once had a photo of the “Full House” and “ER” star snorting cocaine in Florida six years ago, even though that picture can no longer be found.

Testifying in her own defense in U.S. District Court, Allison Coss also confessed she and boyfriend Scott Sippola had lied repeatedly to Stamos in e-mails threatening to sell photos of him with drugs and strippers to celebrity tabloids unless he bought them for \$680,000. Coss, 24, described her actions as immoral but not illegal. “We made stories up,” she said.

But she insisted she did have a photo of Stamos using drugs, testifying under cross-examination that Sippola had put it in a folder and she’d last seen it about a week be-



Actor John Stamos greets fans Wednesday, July 14, 2010 outside the federal courthouse in Marquette, Mich., during the trial of two people charged with trying to extort money from him.

fore their December arrest. Prosecutors contend such a photo doesn’t exist, and FBI agents have testified that they found no compromising images of Stamos while searching the defendants’ home and vehicles.

Piers Morgan likely successor to Larry King at CNN

NEW YORK (AP)—“America’s Got Talent” judge Piers Morgan appears to be the front-runner to claim the CNN talk show long hosted by Larry King, and he has won permission from NBC, which airs the hit talent contest, to pursue the CNN job.

Appearing Wednesday on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” NBC Universal Chief Executive Jeff Zucker noted that Morgan is contractually bound to continue on “America’s Got Talent” for three more years.

“Having said that, I can also tell you that he has approached us about asking us to do another job as well,” said Zucker, with-

Coss became emotional during a grueling cross-examination, as Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Lochner challenged her contention that she had preferred selling the images to Stamos instead of

tabloids partly because she considered him a friend and wanted to spare him pain.

“You wanted not to hurt him, yet you were willing to take \$680,000 of his money?” Lochner asked. “What kind of a friend does something like that?”

After pausing to compose herself, Coss replied softly, “Not a very good one.”

But she repeated allegations made by her attorney during opening arguments that Stamos had stripped and sat in a hot tub with the scantily clad Coss during a visit to his hotel suite in Orlando, Fla., in 2004, when she was a 17-year-old high school student.

She also said Stamos made sexual advances as they kissed on a bed in his room and that one of several photos she and a friend took that night showed him “doing a line” of cocaine.

Morgan has been considered a favorite to replace King, who on June 29 announced his departure from the prime-time perch he has occupied for a quarter century. King, 76, said he would step down from his weeknight show this fall.

The choice of an heir to the 9 p.m. Eastern slot is a crucial one for CNN as it struggles to boost its sagging prime-time ratings. Also, part of CNN’s mission is presumably to restore the luster of what was “Larry King Live” as a go-to place for newsmakers and celebrities. In recent years, many observers had begun to wonder if King was losing his step as well as his audience.

held video posted Wednesday on U2’s Web site, drummer Larry Mullen Jr., bassist Adam Clayton and guitarist The Edge playfully suggest they’ve been auditioning new singers—but can’t quite replace the middle-aged lad who’s been the face of U2 since 1976. The camera then pans to a Bono in rose-tinted lenses. “I can sit. I can stand. I can move around a bit. Feeling strong, feeling confident,” Bono says as he walks about an unidentified recording studio. “And I’m ready—rebuilt by German engineering, better design I’m told—and I’m going to be fighting fit next summer in the U.S.”

Keys, Sade, Jay-Z to perform at charity ball in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Alicia Keys, Jay-Z and Sade Adu will join musical forces later this year for charity. Keys has recruited Jay-Z and Sade to perform at her charity’s annual Black Ball on Sept. 30 at New York’s Hammerstein Ball. Keys will also hit the stage. The foundation, Keep a Child Alive, is celebrating its seventh year. The organization assists children and families affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa and India.

The 29-year-old Keys is expecting her first child with producer-rapper Swizz Beatz. She and Jay-Z teamed up last year for a hit

song about New York called “Empire State of Mind.” The charity didn’t know whether Sade’s band would accompany her to the ball. The 51-year-old singer and her group won a Grammy for their song, “Lovers Rock,” which was released in 2000.

Heirs spar over Lucille Ball auction in Calif.

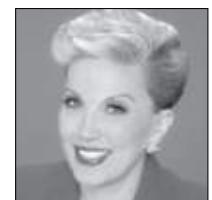
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Heirs of the late Lucille Ball and her second husband are sparring over the planned auction of some of the couple’s prized possessions, including a Rolls Royce and some of the actress’ awards. Other items on the auction block are photos, sketches, other personal items and love letters between Ball and Gary Morton, the comedienne’s second husband. Morton and Ball were married until the comedienne’s death in 1989.

He later remarried, and the items being offered for sale Saturday were consigned to Heritage Auction Galleries by his widow, Susie Morton. She is now locked in a battle with Lucie Arnaz Luckinbill, the daughter of Ball and her first husband and “I Love Lucy” co-star, Desi Arnaz, who want some of the items and her mother’s awards returned. Susie Morton sued Luckinbill on Monday to seek a judge’s ruling that the auction can proceed.

Women who live alone find safety inventing a housemate

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 27-year-old woman who lives alone in a house I own. Sometimes strangers come to the house for various reasons—plumbers, electricians, etc.



Dear Abby

One question I am frequently asked is, “Do you live alone?” I just don’t know how to answer that question without feeling like someone might take advantage of me.

Can you help me and other single women by providing an appropriate response?

CAUTIOUS BACHELORETTE, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

DEAR BACHELORETTE: Gladly. Your gut instincts are on target. I ran your question by my local police department. While I do not usually advise readers to lie, this is the exception that proves the rule. If you are asked if you live alone, reply: “No, I do not live alone. My boyfriend (brother, nephew, etc.) lives here too. Why do you ask?”

DEAR ABBY: My parents are in their 60s and very healthy. Dad has always been frugal. But ever since his retirement, saving a buck seems to be the only thing that makes him happy. Mom and Dad are comfortably well off, but all they seem to think about is saving money.

My sibling and I are doing well enough that we don’t need to rely on inheritance money. We would rather see them enjoy life than hold onto that money for us. Is Dad bored, or does he need a hobby?

It has reached the point where it’s embarrassing to go anywhere with them because Dad berates waiters at restaurants and argues with store clerks over prices. When we’re shopping, he “disappears” until everything is paid for. When I tell him I didn’t expect him to pay, he gets defensive and denies he was hiding. What do you make of this?

PULLING MY HAIR OUT

DEAR PULLING: I make of it that your parents are healthy, retired with less money at their disposal than—perhaps—they had counted on, and expect to live a long time. That may be what is driving your already frugal father’s behavior.

Many retirees today are doing with far less because of the financial turmoil over the last few years. Some have had to postpone their retirement entirely.

Because your father is arguing with servers over the price of food—which is not their fault because they don’t set the prices on the menu—take him to less expensive restaurants. And if his behavior when you’re shopping embarrasses you, find other ways to spend time with him.

DEAR ABBY: I am a college student and four months pregnant. This is my first pregnancy and I’m having a baby shower. I recently heard that sometimes males are invited to the shower. I would like to know if this is appropriate and if I can do it. My mother thinks it’s tacky, but this is 2010! Is it acceptable?

JESSICA IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR JESSICA: Yes, it is acceptable. Allow me to quote from Emily Post’s *Etiquette*, 17th Edition: “It is not uncommon for men to be included on baby shower guest lists these days—and some lucky guys become shower honorees. (An Emily Post Institute survey showed that over a third of respondents had attended showers where the guest list was mixed.)”

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “*The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It*.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby—Anger Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



In this June 19, 2006 file photo, celebrity judge of the NBC television program “America’s Got Talent,” appear on the “Today” show to promote the show in New York’s Rockefeller Center.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

\$1M Steven Seagal sex harassment suit dismissed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show a \$1 million sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a former assistant against Steven Seagal has been dismissed in Los Angeles. Kayden Nguyen (WIN) had claimed Seagal forced her to stay in a Louisiana home and that the action star repeatedly fondled her. The allegations led to the suspension of filming on the reality series “Steven Seagal Lawman.” No reason was given for the dismissal granted Tuesday. Seagal’s attorneys had been trying to resolve the case through private arbitration. Attorneys for Seagal and Nguyen did not immediately return phone messages Wednesday. Seagal had denied the allegations through his attorney.

Talk-show host Ferguson and wife expecting a child

NEW YORK (AP)—Talk-show host Craig Ferguson and his wife are expecting a child. The late-night star made the announcement on Wednesday with a Twitter post that quipped, “Holy crackers! Mrs F is pregnant. How did that happen? ... oh yeah I know how.” The due date, he added vaguely, is 2011. The 48-year-old host of CBS’ “The Late Late Show” is married to art dealer Megan Wallace Cunningham. He has a son, Milo, from a previous marriage.

Shaq to face Bieber, Rachael Ray in ‘Shaq Vs.’

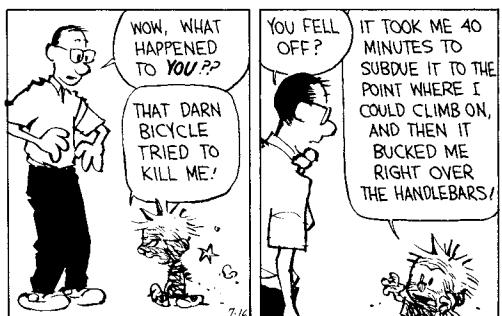
NEW YORK (AP)—Shaquille O’Neal is competing far outside his weight class in the second season of “Shaq Vs.” ABC announced Wednesday that Justin Bieber is among those the NBA star will face off with in his reality competition series. O’Neal will visit the much smaller 16-year-old pop star and join in a dance crew competition. The second season of “Shaq Vs.” will take the focus off athletic competitions. O’Neal will have a cook-off with Rachael Ray and a hot-dog-eating contest with competitive eating champion Joey Chestnut. He will also race Dale Earnhardt Jr., try magic with Penn & Teller and box Sugar Shane Mosley. O’Neal says: “I’m out to prove that I can compete beyond athletics. ... There’s no challenge bigger than me.” The second season premieres Aug. 3.

Bono’s back: U2 rocker ready to roll after surgery

DUBLIN (AP)—Bono’s back. The 50-year-old frontman for Dublin supergroup U2 has announced he’s fully recovered from emergency back surgery in Munich in May—and has apologized to ticket-holding North American fans who must wait an extra year to see the band return to action. In a laid-back hand-

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

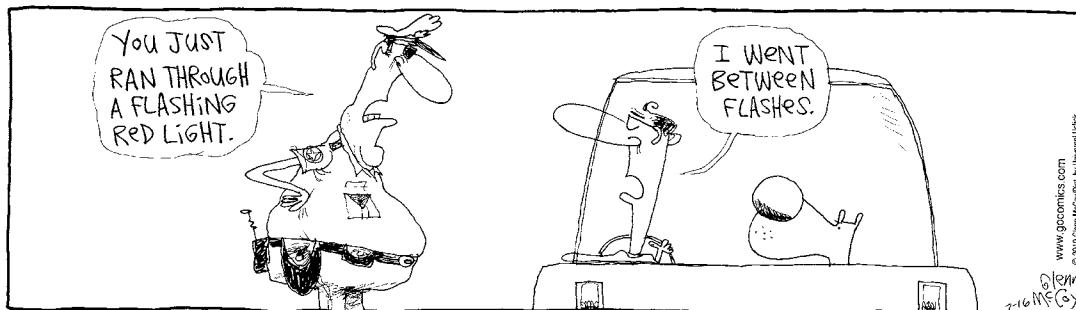
Garfield®



By Jim Davis

By Jim Davis

The Duplex

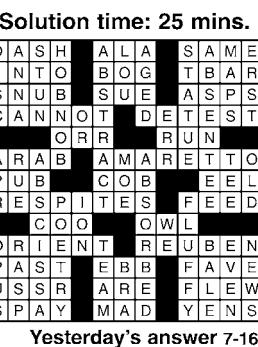


By Glenn McCoy

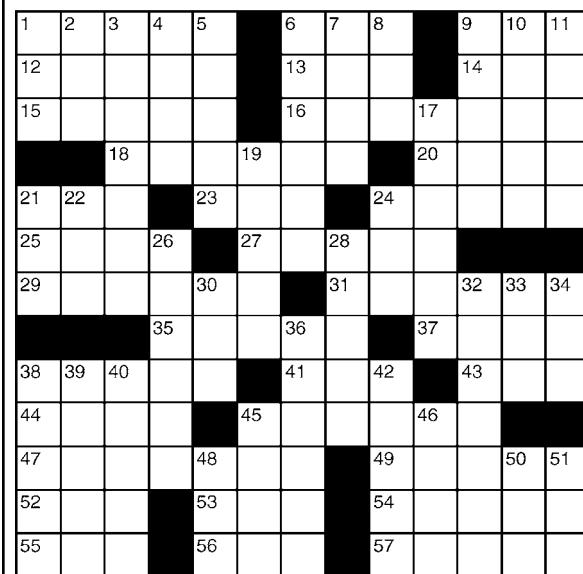
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38	Victim	DOWN	22	Streak
1	Data	of	1	Visibility	24 Common
6	Agent	Cortés	2	hindrance	Mkt.
9	Blond shade	41 Spell-down	3	"Eureka!"	26 Grand
12	Chicago airport	43 Kitten's remark	28	Sheets	28 Sheets
13	Debtor's letters	44 Equitable	30	and pillow-cases	30 Fond
14	Harper Valley org.	45 Bodyguard of Daddy	31	du —, Wisc.	du —, Wisc.
15	Range	47 Planks	32	Leviticu	32 Leviticus
16	Club people	49 Discharge	33	follower	follower
18	"Scram!"	52 Earlier	34	Rage	52 Earlier
20	Persia, now	than	35	Intim	than
21	Post- opposite	10 Back-	36	date	53 Ball-
23	La-la lead-in	54 Rare	37	Exploit	pack
24	"Aida" setting	55 Roulette	38	ative	bearing
25	Willa Cather's "One of —"	56 Cal. page	39	type	part
		57 Irritable	40	Pur	item
			41	suing	11 Lacks
			42	39 Congo,	17 Bunion
			43	once	objet d'art
			44	40 Against	site
			45	the	9 Hack-
			46	clock	bet
			47	42 Oust	neyed
			48	45 Get	56 Cal. page
			49	ready	21 Luau
			50	46 Chills	57 Irritable
			51	and	
				fever	
				Schedule	
				abbr.	
				50	Perch
				51	Play-
					thing



Yesterday's answer 7-16



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Corey Feldman, 39; Barry Sanders, 42; Will Ferrell, 43; Michael Flatley, 52

Happy Birthday: It's important for you to see things for what they are worth, to size up each situation quickly and to avoid letting others influence you. You hold the key to your future. A chance to meet people who have as much to offer you as you do them is in the stars this year. Your numbers are 3, 11, 19, 23, 36, 38, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to cover every little detail, especially when you are working on a project that will reflect your ability and efficiency. Promote what you have to offer. You can take your expertise one step further and get appropriately paid for what you do. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finish up whatever needs to be done and prepare to enjoy the company of a lover, good friends or your family. An unexpected diversion will make you think about possibilities to enhance yourself mentally, physically or emotionally. ☀️☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Upsetting someone unintentionally will lead to a change in your personal plans. Don't put your health or a relationship at risk because you are being stubborn regarding money or an ill-advised product. ☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone who is constantly changing his or her mind will lead you astray. Your earnest attempt to be with someone you love will pay off. Alterations to your living arrangements will be beneficial

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be upfront about the way you feel and the plans you intend to carry out. Getting involved in something of a secretive nature will lead to an argument with someone who was counting on you. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand up for your rights and make your own decisions, especially with financial mat-

ters. An emotional situation may turn into a bullying match if you are being unreasonable. Meet halfway so that no one loses. ☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel inclined to change your direction too soon. Don't follow what someone else does. The experience you gain by hanging in and overcoming whatever changes occur will make you more efficient. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take what you know and use it to your advantage. There is money to be made. Your ability to set up whatever needs to be done and follow through without supervision will bring positive responses. Celebrate your success with the one you love. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take a wait-and-see approach when dealing with people not able to make a decision. Put your efforts into creative ideas of your own with the potential to be marketed for a profit. Don't procrastinate when there is so much to do. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Complete what you start. You will be viewed poorly if you can't close a deal, finish a project or make up your mind quickly and concisely. The time to let all your fears go is now. ☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be upfront about the way you feel and the plans you intend to carry out. Getting involved in something of a secretive nature will lead to an argument with someone who was counting on you. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand up for your rights and make your own decisions, especially with financial mat-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let someone who doesn't understand your situation force you into something you don't want to do. A partnership that helps you make changes to the way you live and how you earn your keep will come as a surprise and will provide favors you least expect. ☀️☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Instability is likely to rear its ugly head if you are involved in a relationship with someone who doesn't think or do things the same way as you. It's important to find common ground. Don't miss out on a promising career move because someone is threatened by the offer. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive and hard-working. You have leadership abilities. You are adaptable and a problem-solver. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7	3	4					
6	3			7	1			
	1					4		
9						3		
7				8				
8	1			2	6			
	9	5	3					
5	6	3	2					

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	6	2	1	8	5	9	7	3
1	3	8	7	9	4	6	5	2
5	9	7	3	2	6	1	8	4
7	5	3	2	1	8	4	6	9
2	1	4	9	6	7	5	3	8
6	8	9	5	4	3	7	2	1
3	7	1	8	5	9	2	4	6
8	2	6	4	7	1	3	9	5
9	4	5	6	3	2	8	1	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★

7/16

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DENNIS LEE HOPPER (1936-2010)

Solution: 8 letters

I	A	E	D	E	T	N	I	A	T	T	A	M	H	E
R	M	C	V	N	E	L	A	G	E	S	P	E	E	D
U	E	P	I	O	V	R	O	L	E	S	O	M	N	I
T	R	B	D	L	C	O	T	S	C	O	R	T		
H	I	O	E	O	E	I	A	N	W	O	A	R	Y	T
A	C	R	C	L	V	M	A	N	H	A	L	Y	B	H
N	A	E	D	K	E	I	O	C	N	T	Y	G	L	G
N	N	D	N	R	G	C	S	H	V	E	P	N	U	I
A	I	I	A	J	O	H	N	A	O	O	S	I	E	N
C	R	R	H	D	A	E	L	S	T	S	E	W	S	A
T	A	Y	S	Y	C	L	I	E	E	I	N	S	E	I
O	M	S	W	I	U	L	S	R	O	L	O	C	S	L
R	O	A												

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDOL-110**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: AUGUST 10, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ MELCHOR A. MENDIOLA
MAYOR OF ROTA

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff, CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0338
-v- RAMON P. AGULTO and DALIA R. AGULTO, Defendants, NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an order issued by the Court in this matter on June 16, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 001 G 32, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 02, the original of which was recorded March 20, 1986, as Document No. 86-0513, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, and also recorded on February 16, 1989, as Document No. 89-511, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 23, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

Dated, this 30th day of June, 2010:

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-123**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 9, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ENERGY STAR WINDOW TINTING FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER, TINIAN HEALTH CENTER AND ROTA HEALTH CENTER"ARRA FUND

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONE MANDATORY WALKTHROUGH WILL BE HELD ON:
JULY 21, 2010 STARTING AT 9:00 A.M. AT CHC, NAVY HILL, SAIPAN
IHC, SAN JOSE, TINIAN WILL BE ON JULY 22, 2010 STARTING AT 10:30 A.M.
RHC, SONGSONG, ROTA WILL BE ON JULY 23, 2010 STARTING AT 11:00 A.M.

QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING AND ADDRESSED TO MR. CHRIS FRYLING, AIA, PROJECT MANAGER VIA E-MAIL TO cfryling@cnmiarra.net OR FAXED TO 1-(670) 664-3067 NO LATER THAN AUGUST 02, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAM
SECRETARY OF DPW

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Bid forms are available at City Trust Bank, Gualo Rai Branch. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and must be received by July 23, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Winning bidder shall be notified in writing.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offer.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15
• 5-Liner	\$24
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

AGREE


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-2010-X-062 for the proposed construction of sixty(60) 2-3 bedroom apartment units within six floors, parking area on the ground floor, roof mounted generator, roof water catchment system and tanks and solar water heating panels on 4,254 square meters of land located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The public hearing will be held on **Thursday, July 22, 2010 at 6:30 pm**, at the **Multi-Purpose Center**, in Susupe, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this proposed project. The project file is open for review 7:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M. Monday–Friday at CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Saipan Office located at Spring Plaza in Chalan Laulau, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300 if you require further information regarding this notice of public hearing.

Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz
Director
Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-10-040

GRANT MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION AND A&E TECHNICAL SERVICES

The Office of the Governor, Benigno R. Fitial and the Office of the Lt. Governor, Eloy S. Inos through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified individuals or firms for Grant Management/Administration and Architect & Engineer Technical Services for the CUC Water-Wastewater Division in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general, of contract administration of grants and locally funded projects, writing and developing grant, design development, bid package preparation, development of infrastructures of water and wastewater facilities.

The A&E firm services will be in contract for a period of one (1) year subject to renewal dependent on fund availability. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws. Progress payments shall be to the Contractor. This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior.

The CUC procurement regulations for Architect/Engineer (A/E) Procurement Regulations Title 50 Chapter 50 of the CNMI Administrative Code Paragraph 50-50-305 to publicly announce all requirements for Architect-Engineer services and negotiate contract on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications at a fair and reasonable price. After public announcement of requirement for A&E services, statements shall be reviewed by CUC, and after discussion, selection shall be made in order of preference of A&E firm to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. The CUC shall attempt to negotiate a contract with the highest qualified architect-engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to CUC. In the event that a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated, negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations shall be undertaken with the next highest qualified firm.

The scope-of-services and proposal requirements will be made available for pick-up, on **July 19, 2010** at the CUC Water-Wastewater Division, Room No.18, 3rd Floor, Room 18, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and six (6) copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-10-040, Grant Management/Administration and A&E Technical Services**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 10:00 AM (CHST) local time**. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST), local time on, **August 11, 2010** to Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Captain Robert Lorenz, Water-Wastewater Engineer at email robert_lorenz@cucgov.net.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Division of Labor



Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone no. (670) 236-0900 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0991

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR HEARING

Friday, July 16, 2010, First Notice

Friday, July 23, 2010, Second Notice

The Employee and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Administrative Hearing Office, 2nd Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, Saipan for a hearing to address the matter of the complaint. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service of this Notice of Hearing". For information, please call 236-0900 ext. 298.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
Reyes, Marcela T.	Tri Enterprises, Inc.	CAC No. 10-407-06	08/03/2010 @ 9:00AM
Li, Bo Hu	Torres, Ernest R.	CAC No. 10-406-06	08/03/2010 @ 9:00AM

Failure to appear on the scheduled date may result in an Administrative Order being entered against you.

Dated this 14th day of July 2010.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho
Enforcement OIC

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Division of Labor



Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone no. (670) 236-0900 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0991

PUBLIC NOTICE TO APPEAR FOR INVESTIGATION

Friday, July 16, 2010

The Employee and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetña Building, San Antonio, Saipan. This notice will serve as "Proof of Service for the notice to appear for investigation". For information, please contact Investigator, Edwin B. Camacho at 236-0900 ext. 298.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
Espiritu, Eugene V.	Castro, Donnalynn A.	CAC No. 10-422-07	07/26/2010 @ 10AM
Jucar, Florenda R.	Acejo, Rhodora DLG.	LC No. 10-1094	07/26/2010 @ 9AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default.

Dated this 14th day of July 2010.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho
Enforcement OIC

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), would like to notify the general public that DPW will be conducting Public Meetings in each Senatorial District for the Federal-Aid Highway Program, Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for Fiscal Year 2011. The Federal-Aid Highway Program is a formula grant program that the CNMI Government receives annually from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

The goal of these Public Meetings is to provide citizens with a better understanding of the transportation decision making process, and encourage community participation in addressing current and future transportation needs such as roads, bicycle and pedestrian designated facilities, safety, and maintenance of transportation facilities. The public meetings will take place as follows:

Saipan - Multi-Purpose Center July 21, 2010 6:00PM

Tinian - Elementary School Cafeteria July 22, 2010 5:30PM

Rota - Round House July 23, 2010 5:30PM

Advance copies of the TTIP can be obtained from the Department of Public Works Technical Services Division (TSD) through its website at www.dpw.gov.mp

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAM
Secretary of Public Works

Steinbrenner's impact on baseball beyond Yankees



NEW YORK

(AP)—George Steinbrenner's impact on baseball went far beyond his New York Yankees.

He showed all teams that spending lavishly on players—when done intelligently—was a way to produce winners, and even some of his rivals adopted that strategy. And he revolutionized the game with his decisions to start a television network and a catering company, and a huge equipment supply contract.

"Regardless of what one's personal opinion is, and obviously he was a close friend, his impact was historical," agent Tom Reich said Wednesday, a day after the colorful and controversial owner died of a heart attack at age 80.

"There are many aspects of the system that wouldn't exist without what he was able to do with the Yankees, not only as a team but as a brand and a business conglomerate. And that changed the financial topography of the game."

Steinbrenner headed a group that bought the Yankees in January 1973 for \$8.7 million net and turned it into a large business valued at \$1.6 billion by Forbes.

Since his health began to decline after the 2003 season, power shifted to Steinbrenner's children and the team's management.

Hal Steinbrenner, the younger son, became managing general partner in November 2008. Hal runs the business for himself, older brother Hank and sisters Jessica and Jennifer.

Team president Randy Levine oversees the finances of the Yankees, the YES Network and Legends Hospitality. Goldman Sachs has interests in the television and food companies, and the Dallas Cowboys co-own the catering business.

Lonn Trost, the team's chief operating officer, is in charge of the franchise's day-to-day business affairs, and general manager Brian Cashman consolidated authority over baseball personnel decisions when he agreed to a three-year contract in December 2005, a deal followed by another agreement in 2008.

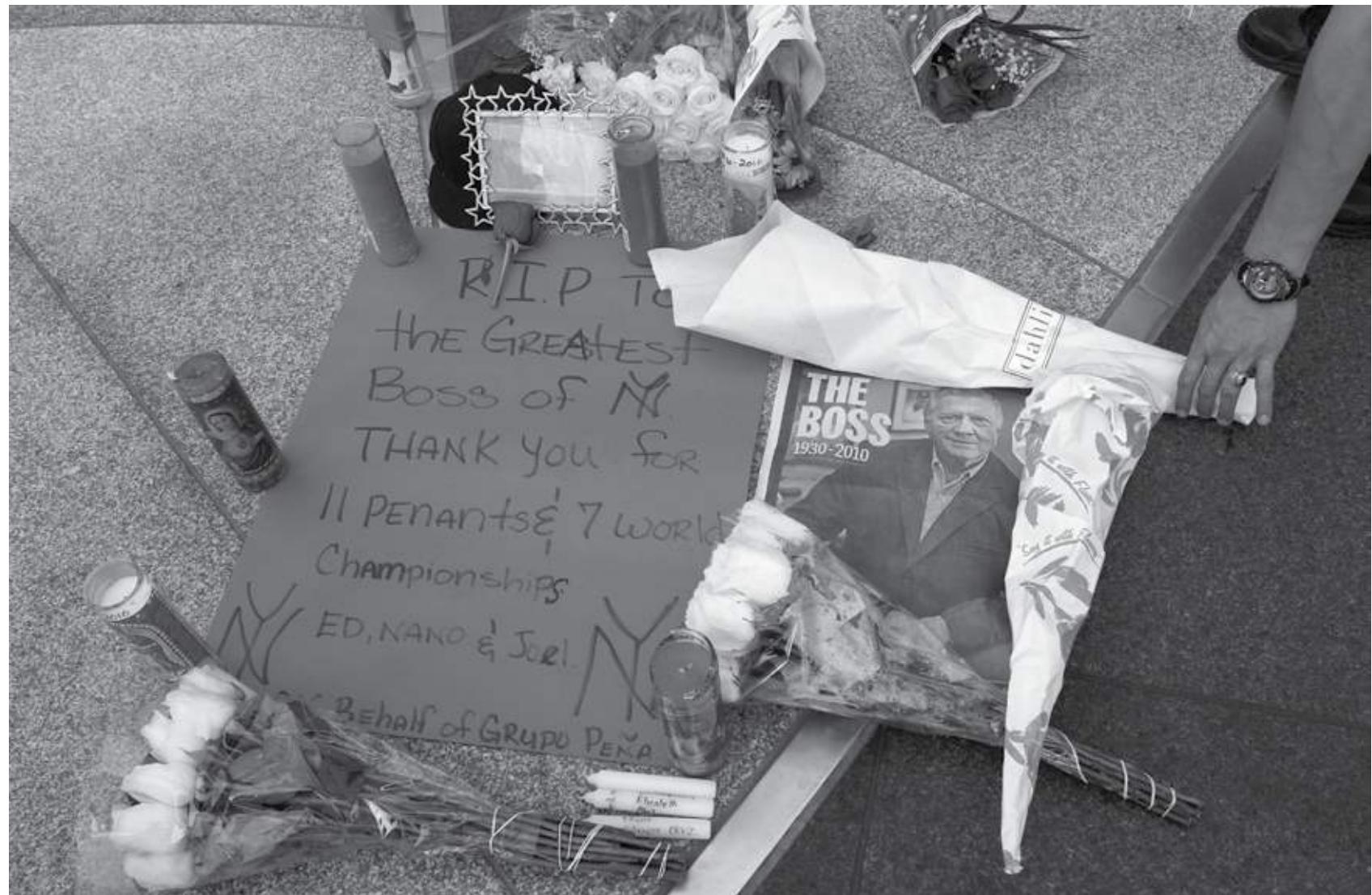
In the second season of \$1.5 billion new Yankee Stadium, New York has unrivaled resources. The Yankees won their seventh World Series title under Steinbrenner's ownership last season, their first since 2000. A \$206 million opening-day payroll was \$43 million higher than that of any other team, and the fruits of that spending shows. The Yankees' 56-32 record at the All-Star break is baseball's best, and they placed a high eight players in the All-Star game.

"The team's not for sale," Levine said Wednesday. "The succession had been planned and implemented. Yankees fans can expect the team to be run as it has been based on the vision of the Boss as carried out by his family."

Hal Steinbrenner was at Steinbrenner Field in Tampa, Fla., on Wednesday along with Hank. While at the team's spring training home, they spent time reminiscing about their father.

"The family is doing well," Hank said. "Yesterday was tough. I want to thank everyone for the messages of condolence, especially the fans."

Outside the ballpark, the usual advertisements on the message board were replaced by "George M. Stein-



A hand reaches in amid items left on the plaza in memoriam for New York Yankees principal owner George M. Steinbrenner outside Yankee Stadium in New York, Tuesday, July 13, 2010. AP

brenner III/We will miss you" and "George M. Steinbrenner III/The Boss' 1930-2010."

Funeral plans were still in formation, with a private ceremony possible Saturday in Tampa or Ocala, where the family has a horse farm.

Public memorial services were under discussion for Tampa when the Yankees play there from July 30-Aug. 1 and for New York, with plans to be announced next week.

Tributes were planned for Friday and Saturday at Yankee Stadium for Steinbrenner and longtime public address

announcer Bob Sheppard, who died Sunday at 99. Many former Yankees will be at the ballpark on Saturday for Old-Timers Day.

"The last two days have been filled with great emotion and personal reflection," Reggie Jackson said in a statement released by the Yankees. "The relationship I shared with The Boss is one that both heartens and comforts me during this difficult time. He meant so much to so many people, and I will always cherish him as a leader, a winner, and a friend. ... I am taking this time to reflect on the enormous and lasting

imprint he made within the game of baseball, throughout the Yankees organization, and in my life."

For many, it is hard to image the pinstripes without Steinbrenner overseeing them with his unique mix of demands for excellence and unrestrained bluster.

"He will go down as one of the greatest owners in the history of baseball, and all of sports. No one wanted to win more than Mr. Steinbrenner," former Yankees center fielder Bernie Williams said. "I always knew I had to be at the very top of my game to meet the high

expectations he set. He made me a better baseball player—and for that, I will be forever grateful to him."

In Washington, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution Tuesday night introduced by members from New York and Florida commemorating Steinbrenner's life and work.

"George Steinbrenner was larger than life, and he was a winner," New York Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand said. "His single-minded drive in the pursuit of excellence brought pride and glory to the Yankees franchise and all of New York City."

Braves acquire Alex Gonzalez from Blue Jays

ATLANTA (AP)—The NL East-leading Atlanta Braves, looking to bolster their lineup for the second half of the season, acquired Alex Gonzalez in a swap of shortstops that sent Yunel Escobar to Toronto on Wednesday.

The Braves also traded left-hander Jo-Jo Reyes to the Blue Jays in the five-player deal while also adding left-handed minor league pitcher Tim Collins and minor league shortstop Tyler Pastornicky.

The 33-year-old Gonzalez is hitting .259 with 17 home runs and 50 RBIs. He is tied for fifth in the American League with 43 extra-base hits.

"He's an outstanding defensive shortstop and he's having a very good offensive season," Braves general manager Frank Wren said. "We think he can improve our run production. He immediately leads our team in home runs."

Troy Glaus had 14 homers to lead the Braves at the All-Star break.

Escobar hit .299 with career-best totals of 14 homers and 76 RBIs last season. He has struggled this year, hitting only .238 with no homers and 19 RBIs.

"We feel that Yunel Escobar will ab-

solutely turn it around," Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos said Tuesday.

"There's certainly an element of risk there, but we feel he has a very good opportunity to turn it around. I think if Yunel Escobar was doing what he did in the past, he's not available to us and this trade does not present itself."

Wren said Escobar could enjoy his best years after leaving the Braves.

"He very well may," Wren said. "He's a talented guy. But for our ballclub we felt we needed to make some adjustments. It just wasn't happening here right now."

The Braves also took on more salary. Escobar is making \$435,000 this season. Gonzalez's salary is \$2.75 million; his contract includes a 2011 club option for \$2.5 million.

"Getting a guy we can control for a year and a half was important to us," Wren said.

Each shortstop is regarded as a strong defensive player.

"Alex may not be quite as flashy as Escobar, but he's an extremely solid shortstop," Wren said.



From left are 2010, file photos showing baseball players Alex Gonzalez and Yunel Escobar. The Atlanta Braves have acquired shortstop Alex Gonzalez and sent Yunel Escobar to the Toronto Blue Jays in a five-player trade.

Wren said Gonzalez is expected to be with the team for Thursday night's game against Milwaukee.

"He's excited to be here and to be coming to a first-place team," Wren said.

The Braves have a four-game lead over the New York Mets and a 4 1/2-game lead over Philadelphia.

Atlanta outfields Jason Heyward (thumb) and Nate McLouth (concussion) are on the disabled list. Heyward,

who was voted an All-Star starter as a rookie, could return on Thursday.

"With the guys coming off the DL in the next week or so we think we have the ability to improve our ballclub and also sit back and see what our needs may be at the trade deadline," Wren said.

The Blue Jays, one game under .500, are 12 1/2 games behind the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Anthopoulos said the Blue Jays "are not actively shopping" other players.

Reyes, 1-5 with a 5.70 ERA at Triple-A Gwinnett, has a 5-15 career record with Atlanta. Kris Medlen's emergence as Atlanta's No. 5 starter pushed Kenshin Kawakami to the bullpen and further blocked Reyes' return to Atlanta.

The Blue Jays optioned Reyes to Double-A New Hampshire.

Collins was 1-0 with a 2.51 ERA and nine saves in 35 games for Double-A New Hampshire.

Pastornicky was batting .258 with 16 doubles, 35 RBIs and 24 stolen bases in 77 games for Class A Dunedin.

Wren said Collins and Pastornicky will report to Double-A Mississippi.

Wade says hardest part of rebuilding Heat is over



Former Miami Heat basketball player Alonzo Mourning, left, rear, and Heat guard Dwyane Wade pose with children after a news conference Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at the Overtown Youth Center in Miami. AP

DORAL, Fla. (AP)—Dwyane Wade looked at the flag, took his stance and slowly pulled back his 5-iron.

He whiffed. Twice.

"No time to practice my golf," Wade said.

That'll soon change. With his free agency settled, with LeBron James and Chris Bosh now along for the ride and with the Miami Heat roster slowly taking shape, Wade is looking forward to finally getting some downtime this summer—knowing that a training camp unlike any other starts in about two months.

Touching on a variety of topics, Wade seemed as relaxed and content as he's been in weeks on Wednesday when he and Alonzo Mourning co-hosted a charity golf event to start their five-day series of fundraising activities known as the Summer Groove. Wade posed for photos, chatted with those who paid \$1,000 to play, even wolfed down a hamburger under a canopy with fans during a rain delay.

"The hard part," Wade said, "is out of the way."

No explanation necessary. The hardest parts of Wade's summer are all behind him now. He has a \$107 million,

six-year contract after giving back some money to accommodate the acquisitions of James, Bosh and Udonis Haslem, his close friend and teammate for the past seven seasons. He settled four civil lawsuits from failed business deals, finalized a divorce and is spending time with his kids.

It's all about looking ahead now, Wade insisted.

A little more than a week ago, some sports books in Las Vegas had Miami listed as a 20-1 shot to win the 2011 NBA title. The Heat are now about an 8-5 betting choice, now that James, Bosh and Wade—three of the NBA's top nine scorers last season—will be together for presumably years to come.

"It still seems surreal," Wade said. "Walking down the hallway when we were on our way to do the congratulations, the 'Yes. We. Did.' event, looking to my life and my right, I'm like, 'this is awesome.' It took me back to All-Star Game. It's not real. And we're laughing, like we can't believe that we're playing together. It just happened and it was the best thing for all of us to do."

By "all of us," he didn't just mean the Big 3, either.

Wade credited James with success-

fully recruiting center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, who announced Tuesday that he'll leave Cleveland after more than a decade and sign with the Heat this week. Plus, Wade expects free agent sharpshooter Mike Miller, who made 48 percent of his 3-pointers last season, to sign in the coming days. Miller agreed in principle several days ago to a deal that remains unsigned.

Haslem is coming back at a discount as well, and several players have contacted Wade to see if the Heat has space for them on the roster.

"Trust me, I get a lot of messages from a lot of different guys that want to be a part of this," Wade said. "But it's about putting the right guys in the right situation. Everyone might not have the personality to deal with this. It's got to be the right mix. The locker room has to be right. We've got to be patient to build this team."

Wade also spoke out on criticism from some people around the league—his friend Charles Barkley was cited in particular—about why his teaming up with James and Bosh might not be a good thing.

Barkley said last week on NBA TV that the 25-year-old James would be better served by trying to win a cham-

pionship with Cleveland.

"They got three terrific players," Barkley said. "I was disappointed. I wanted LeBron to stay in Cleveland, to be honest with you. I don't blame the guy. But I think it would be a lot more important and significant to win a championship in Cleveland than it would be in Miami, if he wins it. ... LeBron is never going to be the guy."

Countered Wade: "When he got older, he tried to team up with (Scottie) Pippen and (Hakeem) Olajuwon. Why wait until you're old when you have nothing left in the tank? ... There's just a lot of misconceptions out there about how much talent it takes to win a championship. It's takes at least two, it takes three to really be a dynasty. That's what we want to be."

To become a dynasty, the Heat will have to win not just one title, but a bunch of them.

And even after all the moves Miami has made, Wade says the Heat shouldn't be the favorites to win it all next June.

"The Lakers are the champions and we know the Lakers are very good," Wade said. "That's the team that everyone's shooting for and they should be. Not the Miami Heat. The Los An-

geles Lakers."

Once the Groove ends with a charity basketball game on Sunday, Wade has some other commitments to tend to, then wants to get a much-deserved rest.

He, James and Bosh won't start practice together for real until late September when camp opens. Much of the two-plus months between now and then will be about resting and relaxing, knowing that the pressure-cooker will await once the season finally arrives.

"It's still basketball," Wade said. "We're going to have fun. We're still young men. We can't put the pressure on ourselves like we've got to run the country. We're not Barack Obama. We don't have that pressure."

NBA BRIEFS

Suns complete deal to get Turkoglu

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns have acquired forward Hedo Turkoglu in a trade that sends guard Leandro Barbosa and forward Dwyane Jones to Toronto. The deal gives the Suns a third forward in their attempt to replace free agent Amare Stoudemire. Phoenix signed swingman Josh Childress in a sign-and-trade deal with Atlanta earlier Wednesday and picked up Hakim Warrick in similar swap with Chicago. Turkoglu spent one disappointing season in Toronto, averaging 11.3 points after being named the NBA's most improved player with Orlando the year before. Barbosa, the NBA's 2006-07 sixth man of the year, played seven seasons in Phoenix, averaging 12.6 points as a key sub. Jones spent most of last season in the NBA Developmental League.

Rockets to match Cavs' offer sheet to Lowry

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cavaliers have been rejected again. The team's attempt to sign free agent Kyle Lowry was rebuffed Wednesday when the Houston Rockets matched Cleveland's offer sheet to the veteran point guard. Cleveland's package was a three-year, \$24 million deal with a fourth option year, but Rockets general manager Daryl Morey wasted no time in making a counteroffer. The 6-foot Lowry averaged 9.1 points, 4.5 assists and 3.6 rebounds per game last season backing up Aaron Brooks. "He's a big part of our team," Morey said in a phone interview. "He did a great job off the bench and we also like he and Aaron playing together. That's very big for us to get him back." Lowry's agent, Andy Miller, did not return multiple messages seeking comment. The Rockets had seven days to match Cleveland's offer, but Morey saw no reason to wait.

Udoh to miss 6 months after wrist surgery

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors say top draft pick Ekpe Udoh will miss six months after undergoing surgery on his injured left wrist. Udoh underwent the operation on Wednesday in San Francisco to repair a torn ligament in his wrist. He will have his wrist immobilized for about 10 weeks. Udoh injured the wrist at a supervised workout at the team's facility earlier this month. He was selected sixth overall out of Baylor in last month's draft.

Union disputes NBA's figures, prepares for lockout

NEW YORK (AP)—Insisting that the NBA's financial projections "strain credibility," players' association executive director Billy Hunter said Wednesday he's seen nothing to change his belief that a lockout is possible.

Hunter disputes commissioner David Stern's forecast of nearly \$400 million in losses this season, countering that the league's basketball-related revenues increased to their highest point ever in 2009-10.

"Our position is that David is mistaken," Hunter told The Associated Press, adding he believes things are "much, much better than they maintain."

The league's collective bargaining agreement expires next summer. The sides have started negotiations to-

ward a new one but remain far apart, creating fears of the first work stoppage since 1998-99.

"I'm preparing for a lockout right now and I haven't seen anything to change that notion. Hopefully I'll see something over the next several months," Hunter said. "As of this moment, it's full speed ahead for me in preparing the players for a worst-case scenario."

Stern predicted the \$400 million loss during the All-Star weekend in February, amending it to about \$370 during a press conference Monday in Las Vegas following a meeting of the league's board of governors.

The union was alerted to that projection last summer, but Hunter contends revenues turned out to be much higher

than anticipated—though deputy commissioner Adam Silver said expenses were up, too.

"Part of the problem with the existing system is it's based largely on revenue, not net revenue," Silver said Monday. "Although our actual revenue numbers were better than what we projected, it came at a large cost. Our teams did a spectacular job in a down economy of increasing ticket sales, but that came at the cost of additional promotions, additional marketing, additional staff."

Hunter was already wary of the league's projections after it warned its teams last July that next season's salary cap could fall as low as \$50.4 million. It was set last week at \$58.0 million, even higher than this season's.

"Clearly it causes us some concern, causes us to question their numbers," Hunter said.

Hunter said the players will offer their interpretations of the league's finances at the next bargaining meeting. He said he hasn't heard anything from the league since the union submitted its proposal for a CBA earlier this month.

Stern said that proposal basically embraced the current system, but the league believes changes are necessary and the teams that spent freely during free agency did so because it was the only way they could win. Hunter disagrees, saying owners want a system where they can spend and "receive guaranteed profits unlike any other industry in America."

Tour rivals Schleck and Contador relax in stage 10

GAP, France
(AP) — Andy Schleck of Luxembourg kept hold of the Tour de France race leader's yellow jersey little difficulty on a day when the main contenders were happy to sit back and let others do the suffering.

After several days of brutal racing and crashes in searing heat combined to knock both seven-time Lance Armstrong and two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans out of contention for the title, Wednesday's 10th stage was never going to be contested by the likes of Schleck or defending champion Alberto Contador.

Instead, the day after a mammoth stage trying to outwit each other in the high Alps, Contador and Schleck stayed safely in the main pack on another scorching hot day over the 179-kilometer (111.2-mile) trek from Chambery to Gap. It featured only one difficult climb — the Laffrey pass.

"We were happy to let the breakaway go. That allowed us to ride at an easy pace for most of the day," said Schleck, who leads the two-time winner Contador by 41 seconds overall. "It was very, very hot and I think most of the guys are still feeling the effects of (Tuesday's) stage."

They rolled in more than 14 minutes behind stage winner Sergio Paulinho — Armstrong's RadioShack teammate.

"He's a very strong rider and never thinks about himself. I'm very happy to see him win a stage in the Tour de France and shine for himself," Paulinho's manager Johan Bruyneel said.

The top 3 did not change, with Samuel Sanchez of Spain still 2:45 behind Schleck.

But Armstrong lost more time and is over 17 minutes adrift, although the



Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, holds the yellow jersey mascot with the French flag for Bastille day, on the podium after the 10th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 179 kilometers (111.2 miles) with start in Chambery and finish in Gap, France, Wednesday, July 14, 2010.

38-year-old conceded that his Tour bid was over after he was affected by three crashes on Sunday's chaotic first stage in the Alps.

Easing up in the saddle offered the likes of Schleck and Contador a chance to take in some mesmerizing scenery, as glistening sky-blue lakes cut a path through the dark green hills and steep climbs of the southern Alps.

Paulinho edged Vasil Kiryienka of Belarus in a sprint to the line after four riders had formed an early

breakaway, and then two more joined them while the others just dropped off and saved energy.

No one was going to argue that call. Paulinho, meanwhile, had just about enough energy left to sprint.

"I've been dreaming of this since I was a little child," Paulinho, who won silver at the 2004 Olympics in the road race, said after his first Tour stage win — and RadioShack's first of this race.

"I'm sure we're going to celebrate

this win because it's the first for us," he added.

The 25-year-old Schleck knows he will need all the energy he can get as he tries to take the title from his Spanish opponent Contador.

He hopes his teammates will get the message that they need to give everything that have for him against Contador's Astana teammates.

"My team is here to work," Schleck said. "I have a fairly complete team and I don't see any real weaknesses ...

Perhaps our team doesn't have as many climbers as Astana but that doesn't really matter."

Schleck, however, still seems intent on trying out mind games on the 27-year-old Contador, who has yet to respond and is merely focusing on getting a third Tour title with machinelike efficiency.

"I have already said that the situation is straightforward, the team only has one rider to look for (Contador)," Schleck said. "With what happened in the last few stages, I know that I am climbing better than all the others."

It was Schleck's first day defending the coveted yellow jersey, and he said he noticed greater fan support on the side of the roads of southeastern France during his ride in the coveted shirt.

"My name was on some of the signs. It's nice to see that," he said, referring to banners unfurled by spectators. "I'm getting popular even here in France."

Thursday's flatter 11th stage is a 184.5-kilometer (114.65-mile) route from Sisteron to Bourg-les-Valence.

A medium mountain stage follows on Friday, followed by one made for sprinters on Saturday — two more days where Schleck and Contador should get a chance to rest their aching bodies.

They will need to.

The Tour then hits the Pyrenees climbs, reputedly even harder than the Alps this year, and where the battle between Contador and Schleck will heighten over three straight days of intense climbs.

Then, after a rest day, there is the fourth and final of the harrowing Pyrenean climbs.

Whoever from Schleck or Contador who gets through that ordeal in the best shape will take a huge advantage into the penultimate day time trial on July 24.

Favre says he's not worried about his beat-up body



MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Brett Favre was badly beat up in Minnesota's overtime loss at New Orleans last January, a well-documented part of that epic NFC championship game.

The grandfather of NFL quarterbacks, however, doesn't sound worried about his health as it relates to returning for a 20th season.

"Playing another year probably isn't going to make a difference. The damage has already been done," Favre told Men's Journal magazine for the issue that will go on sale on Friday.

Favre also explained his thought process on the fateful fourth-quarter interception against the Saints in that game, an on-the-run pass to Sidney Rice that was forced into tight coverage. Favre said they connected on the same play the week before against the Dallas Cowboys, expecting Rice to come back toward him.

"As a player you've got to pull the trigger," Favre said. "You can't say, 'Well, is he going to do what I think he's going to do?' He wasn't wrong, and in some ways, I wasn't either."

The Vikings are still waiting to learn whether Favre will come back, with training camp a little more than two weeks away. His agent, Bus Cook, told The Associated Press in an e-mail on Wednesday he had no update on Favre's status.

"Nothing yet," Cook said.

Favre and teammate Greg Lewis



Minnesota Viking quarterback Brett Favre throws a few passes to members of the Oak Grove High School football team in Hattiesburg, Miss., Monday, July 12, 2010.

shared the best play trophy at the ESPY Awards in Los Angeles on Wednesday night. Favre didn't appear backstage to speak with reporters.

"I really couldn't get a read on whether he's coming back or not," Lewis told reporters. "I hope he comes

back. It was great playing with him. He's a great person as well. He's just fun to hang around."

In the wide-ranging interview with Men's Journal, Favre expressed the usual uncertainty about continuing his decorated, drama-filled career. He of-

NFL BRIEFS

Packers' Woodson and 15 others escape house fire

BAY HARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Green Bay Packers cornerback Charles Woodson says he was lucky to escape a burning house in Michigan over the weekend. Woodson told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Wednesday he was at Gwen Haggerty's house in Bay Harbor on Friday night. It was part of a celebration honoring the Ted and Jane Von Voigtlander Foundation for donating \$15 million to name the new women's hospital at the University of Michigan. The former Wolverine says he and other overnight guests were

fortunately still awake when the fire started sometime after 4 a.m. Saturday. Everyone was able to get out of the house without being hurt.

Texans sign draft pick Dickerson

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Texans have signed seventh-round draft pick Dorin Dickerson. The 6-foot-2 Dickerson was taken with the 227th overall selection. He played receiver, tight end and linebacker during his college career at Pittsburgh, and set a school record for tight ends with 10 touchdown receptions last season. Dickerson finished with 49 catches for 529 yards in 2009.

thinking, 'What the hell am I doing here?' Football became work. But last year it went back to being a game."

Favre said he did doubt his decision to unretire for a second straight year and sign with the Vikings, even as he was making the commitment.

"I thought, 'This is a mistake,'" Favre said.

As for whether he'll be on the field again this season?

"You'd think I'd know better by now. I've learned a lot through the years. What I haven't learned is what I'll do and when I'll do it," Favre said.

Las Vegas MMA dates for Manglona, Camacho

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Keli "The Rukiz" Manglona and Frank "The Crank" Camacho will once again put the CNMI flag front and center when they compete in separate mixed martial arts events in Las Vegas, Nevada.

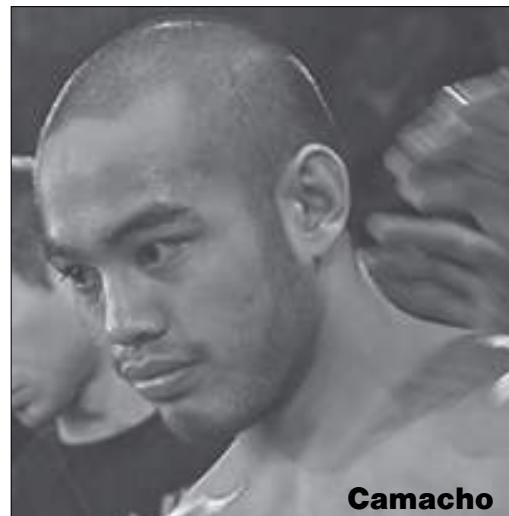
Manglona, fighting out of Wand Fight Team and Legion Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, will take part in MMA-XPLOSION at the Rio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas this Saturday, July 17.

The CNMI's first-ever middleweight champion will take on Joey Guevara of California in the 170-lb. welterweight division of the amateur mixed martial event.

"Stand up Marianas! As a familiar face suits up for battle! I am honored to be represent-



Manglona



Camacho

ing Wand Fight Team and I feel very good about everything... I've been training very hard and look forward to putting it to the test. *Si yu'us ma'ase yan memorias*," said Manglona.

"Manglona is continuing to represent the Marianas in such pride and he said that he's also looking forward to returning

to the CNMI for his first title defense," said Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez.

Manglona is also affiliated with Gorilla Warfare MMA.

Camacho, for his part, plans on competing in the blue belt division in the upcoming American National Jiu-Jitsu "No-Gi" Championship 2010.

The MMA event takes place on Aug. 14 in the Sport Center of Las Vegas. The ANJ-JC is realized by United States Jiu-Jitsu Federation. Camacho just came off a huge gold medal performance in the blue belt division the 2010 Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu World Championship- Mundials on June 4, 2010.

Fiesta's beach soccer tourney on Aug. 14



Starting next month volleyball will not only be the sport played on sand, as Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan will be hosting a beach soccer tournament at its beachfront on Aug. 14.

A \$500 cash prize is up for grabs to the overall winners and \$300 will go the runner-up team. Additionally, trophies will be awarded to the winners and other consolation prizes

will also be awarded to various participants.

The tourney will use an open format, which means that any combination of players, ages 16 and up can be on a team; teams can be all male, female, or coed.

There is a seven-player maximum per roster and games will be formatted with a five-on-five style of play. The other two players will serve as substitutes throughout each contest.

The entrance fee to partici-

pate is only \$30 per team and the official deadline for submission will be the morning of the tournament, however, there are limited spots available so early registration is highly recommended.

Registration is set from 7am to 8am on Aug. 14 and the first game kicks off at 10am. No submissions will be accepted after 8am on the day of the tourney.

"The purpose of the tourna-

ment is to simply introduce this new sport to the community and we hope to formulate a beach soccer league some time in the future," said Fiesta Resort and Spa Sports and Recreation manager Lucio Aldan.

For early registration or for more information, contact Aldan at 483-8832, 287-3191 or email luicio_aldan@fiestasaipan.com.

Interested participants can also register in person at the front desk of the Fiesta Resort and Spa. (Walter Sutherland)

CNMI

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Sikkel, team manager Gilbert Birnbrich, Eric Deleon Guerrero McDuff, Jesse Camacho Santos, David Barnhouse, Jr., Peter Michael Tenorio, and Eldred Sanchez. James Sirok is the team's race official and CNMI representative to outrigger canoe technical meeting, but is also eligible to race. The outrigger canoe competition in Palau will be held on Aug. 6 and 7 at the Meyuns

Seaplane Ramp.

The CNMI paddlers are hoping to improve its two-medal haul finish in the 2006 edition of the Micronesian Games and give host and competition favorite Palau a tough time in their home waters.

Palau swept the overall championship in the outrigger canoe competition, four years, ago winning six gold medals. The Palauan paddlers ruled the men's and women's marathon and the 500m, and 1,500m races.

The CNMI finished third

both in the men's marathon and men's 500m race. Pohnpei took the silver in the men's and women's marathon and 1,500m race, and bronze in the women's 500m race. Yap won a bronze in the men's 500m race, while Kosrae took home a silver (women's 500m) and bronze (women's 1,500m).

Guam did not compete in 2006, but is returning this year and is expected to battle the CNMI and Palau for most of the medals. The last time the CNMI challenged Palau and Guam paddlers in a race was

in last year's Micronesian Cup with Sikkel and company winning the overall championship.

The CNMI paddlers had been practicing several days a week to prepare for the Micronesian Games. They will be among the more than 100 Commonwealth delegates who will travel to Palau for the Aug. 1 to Aug. 10 competition.

Besides the outrigger canoe competition, the CNMI will also be participating in athletics, baseball, basketball, table tennis, lawn tennis, swimming, spearfishing, and triathlon.

dren of hedge fund managers in Connecticut was a kick in the teeth. He went from hero to villain in the minds of many. But he didn't hurt anybody or break any laws, just hurt some feelings and broke some hearts. Well, it's just a game, folks.

Big deal. If I wrote down all the mistakes I made when I was 25 years old which is how old LeBron is, then the *Saipan Tribune* would need to put out a special issue. LeBron may be guilty of poor taste and terrible acting, but that's about it. He wanted to play with Dwyane Wade, my favorite player, and Chris Bosh. And consider this fact in this, the "me generation": Bosh, James and Wade

all took less money in order to play on the same team. That unselfishness should count for something.

The most troubling angle in all this, and there are many angles, is that in my mind LeBron just lost out on the opportunity to be considered the greatest player in NBA history. If he had won a title in Cleveland, then that's the closest anybody has come to walking on water since you know who. For all of his accomplishments, James has never been known as a fourth quarter player or money man or Captain Crunchtime. Wade, Robert Horry, Derek Fisher, Bird, Magic, and of course, Jordan all earned that in gathering

rings. Now LeBron will have to share the spotlight. Hey, it's still a spotlight!

While many will be rooting against Miami next season, I admit it will be hard for me to do that. The Heat signed my two favorite blue-collar players also for less than market value, Mike Miller and Udonis Haslem. I remember taking my family to see them play at the University of Florida when they were fresh-faced freshman, Miller a long-hair from South Dakota and pudgy Haslem from Miami. We sat in row 3 of the student section and I still have the pom poms from that game. Maybe I'll shake them when they play the Lakers next June in the NBA finals.

GENERATION

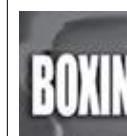
From Page 40

Nobody looked good except maybe the Heat's Pat Riley who always looks good.

Nine million television sets were tuned to see a young man announce where he was going to play next season. I admit I watched but only to see the announcement and then turned it off. I would have burned his jersey if I owned one. That seemed to be the No. 1 highlight on ESPN in the following days.

All in all, for most of the country and all of Ohio, the hour-long program in front of a bunch of well-heeled chil-

Williams willing substitute vs Pacquiao



MANILA, Philip-pines — Count Paul Williams

among those waiting to challenge seven-division champion Manny Pacquiao in November.

With unbeaten

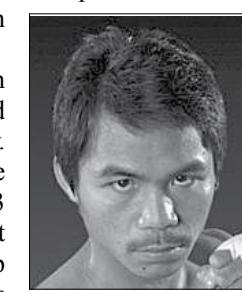
American Floyd Mayweather Jr. yet to sign the proposed Nov. 13 contract to fight Pacquiao, Top Rank promotions head honcho Bob Arum is looking at Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto and Mexican Antonio Margarito as alternative opponents.

Dan Goossen, chief promoter of the 6-foot-2 Wil-

liams, however, told Boxing-Scene.com that the two are unattractive challengers. Cotto was manhandled by Pacquiao in their showdown last year while Margarito is still banned in the United States for fighting with a plaster-like substance in his hand wraps.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao will play in a basketball exhibition highlighting the 44th Foundation Anniversary of South Cotabato and the 11th T'nalak Festival on Wednesday.

Pacquiao will banner the Public Works department against the Kenneth Duremdes-led Coke Ambassadors. (PDI)



SENIORS

From Page 40

giving up even though they trailed for six innings," said CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada.

After the CNMI Big Leaguers finished their pool with a 1-2 win-loss record they played last night's consolation game against Indonesia. Results were still not available as of press time.

Contrary to what was previously reported, the CNMI

Junior Leaguers finished out their bracket winless with five losses after losing, 8-10, to host team Indonesia in their last game on Wednesday.

All three teams are scheduled to arrive back on Saipan early Monday morning at 1:40am. A press conference will be scheduled later that afternoon where media members along with Ada and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will greet the Senior League players, coaches, and managers. Details of the time and place for the press conference are still pending.

DEPLETED

From Page 40

when they committed errors in the closing minutes of the game. The last one was when Marvin Rabauliman lost Trevor Ogumoro's pass.

Before Rabauliman made the miscue, Hi-5 was only up by three, 79-76, as Wowie Abuel muffed two free throws, with six seconds left on the clock. After Abuel's second miss, Ogumoro grabbed the rebound and made a forward pass to Rabauliman, who was trying to go for a breakaway play, but was too fast for his own good, and lost the leather.

With the crucial possession gone, Ol'Aces gave up a pre-emptive foul on Lerio, with 1.6 ticks to go in the final canto. Lerio put the icing on the cake, drilling the two free shots.

In the first game, four of the Sixers' five players scored in double figures to hand the Rollers their sixth loss in a row.

Joe Ada sizzled for 31 points for the Sixers, who drew 18 and 16 points from Matt Duenas and Jennie Lee Wright, respectively. Completing the Sixers' balance scoring was Ernest Duenas, who chipped in 14.

The Sixers controlled the game

from start to finish, as the Rollers had only Manny Matagolai and Luizi Reyes consistently scoring for the latter.

First Game

Michelob Sixers 86 — Ada 31, M. Duenas 18, Wright 16, E. Duenas 14, Belyeu 4.

Bud Ice Rollers 76 — Matagolai 14, Reyes 14, Santos 11, Hambros 8, Galarse 7, D. Teregeyo 6, Ogarto 4, Aughenbaugh 2, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 46-27, 62-53, 86-76.

Second Game

Mojito Hi-5 81 — Sablan 35, Lerio 27, Abuel 8, Santos 7, Capalad 5.

Ol'Aces 76 — Rabauliman 24, Ogumoro 21, Aughenbaugh 8, Lisua 6, Coldeen 6, Van Buren 4.

Scoring by quarters: 15-15, 40-33, 59-47, 81-76.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER STANDINGS	
CNMI Nationals	6 0
Becks Sixsevenoh	5 2
Hoegaarden IT&E	5 1
Bacardi Hi-5	4 2
Ol'Aces	2 3
Runnin' Rebels	1 3
Michelob Sixers	1 4
Budweiser Saints	0 4
Bud Ice Rollers	0 6

Two NMIFA referees complete course



NMIFA's Catherine Anderson, standing right, and John Ravell, standing ninth from left, pose with fellow referees who completed a course in Japan last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Catherine Anderson and John Ravell completed the Japan Football Association (JFA) 2010 International Referee Instructor Course (IRIC) conducted at the J-Step National Training Centre Shimizu, Japan last month.

The six-day course, which ran from June 7 to 12, focused on theoretical lessons and practical training. Topics discussed included referee development in Japan and AFC, teaching principles, laws of the game, game analysis and

assessment of match officials at a J-league game, and "marketplace" teaching exercises.

Top referee instructors from JFA and FIFA/AFC conducted the course, which concluded with participants touring the Japan Football Museum and other sites in Tokyo.

"In addition to providing training on the "best practices" techniques and mechanisms of referee instruction, this course also gave me an opportunity to understand the vastness of the AFC referee structure, opportunities, and support system. With a better understanding of the high standard set for AFC referees, and the support and training available to achieve that standard, I hope to use this training to raise the lev-

el of officiating in NMIFA toward that international standard, with particular emphasis on young referees who have the greatest opportunity for growth and advancement under the AFC system," said Anderson.

"The course overall was intensive, challenging, and fun. The course instructors were very pleased with the way all participants gelled in working as a team, which is sometimes not common with so many people from different countries forming the group. We have gained a lot of knowledge within the week of training to help better develop referee training in our own FAs," Ravell said.

Joining Ravell and Anderson in the training were referees from Chinese

Taipei, Jordan, Korea Republic, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Bahrain, Syria, Maldives, United Arab Emirates, and host Japan.

"I personally felt honored to be part of this course with so many experienced veteran FIFA referees from many different nations," he added.

After Anderson and Ravell completed the course, they submitted a report to NMIFA entitled "NMIFA Referee Development Recommendation." Recommendations include national and international referee development goals, assessments, training, and national referee structure.

Ravell and Anderson's trip was made possible through the help of JFA, which provided food, accommodations, transportation, training

instructors, and materials to the two NMIFA referees.

"On behalf of the NMIFA executive committee members and all its members, we would like to thank JFA, specifically president Motoaki Inukai and general secretary Kohzo Tashima, for their staunch support of NMIFA and for the development of our referees and coaches," NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said.

"Every year, JFA does not forget NMIFA and invites us to participate in courses aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of our referees and coaches so that the representatives we send can come back and teach their fellow coaches and referees, and further develop our youth and adult football players," Salas added.

Onoue rules CWGA July tournament



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CWGA members pose for a group photo before starting to play on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort during last week's tournament.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Shiori Onoue tamed the greens and fairways of the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort en route to topping the CNMI Women's Golf Association Monthly Tournament last weekend.

Onoue was the lone participant to shoot in the 30s on both nines after carding a 3-over 39 on the front and 2-over par 38 on the back for a gross 77. Deducting her seven handicap, Onoue ended up with a net 70 for a one-shot win over Bobbie Guerrero. Guerrero, a 21-handicapper, carded a 48 and 44 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 91 and net 71.

Completing the Top 3 was Seon Hee Jeon, who finished the 18 holes with a net 73. The 35-handicapper tallied a 56 on the front and 52 on the back for a gross 108.

Fifteen others joined CWGA's monthly tournament with Eun Ae Chang, Pil Sun Kitami, Dolores Yamagishi, Yuko Togawa, Sherlyn Jones, Terry Tudela and Kyung Ahn Yang

rounding out the Top 10.

The 17-handicapper Chang notched fourth place after nailing a net 74, built on a 47 on the front and 44 on the back. The 13-handicapper Kitami finished fifth with her net 76 and gross scores of 47 on the front and 42 on the back, while the 19-handicapper Yamagishi was ranked six, following her gross of 96 (46 and 50) and net 77.

Togawa and Jones had identical net scores of 78, with the former winning the tiebreak after carding a 40 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively, against the latter's 45 in the first nine holes and 48 in the last.

Tudela and Yang also ended up with similar net scores of 79. The 16-handicapper Tudela, who had 49 and 46 on the front and back nines, respectively, prevailed in the scorecard tiebreak. Yang, a 21-handicapper, had a gross 100, built on a 52 on the front and 48 on the back.

Other CWGA members who joined last Saturday's tournament with their net scores in parenthesis were Noriko Togawa (82), Lorraine Babauta (83), Grace Wang (85), Lou Kim (90), Terue Ukita (87), Bennet Seman (87), and Masayo Miyamoto (83).

Three top SCA bike competition



Participants of Saipan Cyclist Association's first-ever point-to-point trio of bike races pose for the camera after the competition held last Saturday in Marpi.

Butch Sublemente won the full course competition of Saipan Cyclist Association's first-ever point-to-point trio of bike races held last Saturday in Marpi.

Sublemente came in first place in the mountain bike full course with a time of 59:25. Mark Isip came in second a couple of minutes later with a time of 1:01:07, while Russ Quinn took third place after crossing the finish line in 1:04:03.

The full course had participants start at the Last Command Post and follow the Banzai Trail to Cow Town, Santa Claus Lane, and Autoban Trail, before heading back to Banzai Trail and ending at Banzai Cliff.

Nap Dizon, meanwhile, won the short course of the mountain bike race with a time of 37:59. Nonong Tataro finished in second, a couple of minutes behind, with a time of 39:55. A little over a minute later, Rick Antonio rounded out the third spot with a time of 41:11.

The short course had cyclists start at Banzai Cliff, go through Cow Town and Marpi Landfill and back again to Banzai Trail before finishing at Banzai Cliff.

Lewei Tenorio, for his part, topped the road bike course with a time of 47:20. Willy Barbo placed second with a time of 49:21 and Rene Calage fin-

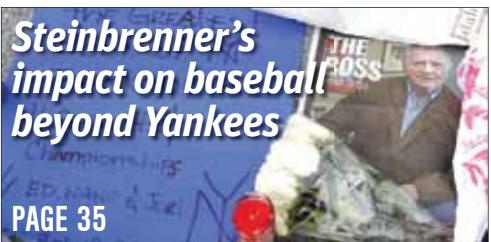
ished right behind him in third at 50:07.

The road race started at the Last Command Post and ended at Banzai Cliff. In between, cyclists had to follow the asphalt road up to Banzai Cliff, back to Suicide Cliff, down to Bird Island Lookout and the Grotto, before coming back to Banzai Cliff.

The SCA would like to thank all participants, volunteers as well as the sponsors for the event. Sponsors include MarPac-Michelob, Country House Restaurant, Hard Rock Cafe Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, IT&E, NTT Docomo Pacific, I Connect, Auto-Glass Pro, and C&R Corporation (8HR, NRG). (Walter Sutherland)

The 2nd Annual Inter-Government/Business Softball League will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, July 19, 2pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

For more information about the Inter-Government/Business Softball League, contact Jojo Attao, Mario Salan, or Chris Camacho at 664-2502/3. (Walter Sutherland)



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Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Seniors advance to World Series

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars won the Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament championship after rallying to beat archrival Guam, 8-4, yesterday morning in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The Seniors All-Stars were down, 0-4, going into the top of the seventh inning and Guam needed only three outs to advance to the big show.

However, the no-quit CNMI Seniors dug deep and pulled off a huge eight-run rally to take the lead in the last inning.

In the bottom half of the seventh, Richard Dela Cruz came to the mound in relief for Harry Nakamura and shut down Guam's batters.

The come-from-behind victory allowed the Commonwealth clutters to advance to the Senior Division Little League Baseball World Series set in Bangor, Maine from Aug. 16 to 22.

The last Little League World Series appearance for the CNMI in the Senior Division was back in 2004 and 2008.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Harry Nakamura started on the mound for the CNMI Senior League All-Stars in their 8-4 win against Guam in the finals of the Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament held yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

CNMI to send only men's canoe team to Palau



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Members of the CNMI men's outrigger canoe team pose for a group photo before their training session at Kilili Beach yesterday.

This is the me generation

Barnum and Bailey are laughing in their graves. Their circus would have loved LeBron James. NBA High Honcho David Stern doesn't like the circus. He fined Cleveland Cadaver owner Dan Gilbert a hundred grand for his over-the-top sour grapes letter after the Chosen One chose South Beach over Lake Erie, adding bitter terms like "ill-advised and imprudent." But the Cleveland fans loved Gilbert for that and that's his fan-base.

Stern, the most appropriately named ruler of all sports, blasted King James' television show "The Decision" as "ill-conceived, badly produced and poorly executed." At least he didn't use the word "stupid."

The sorry spectacle was furthered soiled by Jesse Jackson desperately trying to stay relevant by using the term "slavery" to describe an owner who had given James \$125 million.

See GENERATION on Page 38



Notably, most of the players who played on this year's Asia-Pacific Regional champion team were also part of the CNMI Majors Division All-Star team that beat Guam back in 2006 and went to Williamsport, Pennsylvania for the ever-popular Little League Baseball World Series.

Aside from Dela Cruz and Nakamura, the team is also made up of Zachary Aldan, Carl C. Camacho, Diego Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, McGarette Duenas, Nathan M. Guerrero, Gregorio Iskawa, Jeremy Lizza, Marvin Ngeskabei, Joseph B. Palacios Jr., Leonard T. Sablan, Jake P. Santos, Kevin Y. Villagomez, and Jesse Yamagishi.

Shout outs to first-time Senior Division manager Jonathan Tenorio and rookie coaches Tony DeLeon Guerrero and Lawrence Dikito for assisting with the Senior All-Stars championship performance.

"I think pitching was the key for the CNMI's win and again, hats off to the players for not

See SENIORS on Page 38

Depleted teams survive in Budweiser caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Michelob Ultra Sixers broke into the win column in the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League, while Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 bounced back after beating separate foes last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sixers topped the Bud Ice Rollers, 86-76, to end their four-game losing skid, while Hi-5 improved to a 4-2 record, following an 81-76 triumph over the Bud Light Lime Ol'Aces.

Both the Sixers and Hi-5 recorded wins despite playing with a depleted lineup. Hi-5 had only five players available for the game, the same number

of Sixers cagers, who suited up against the Rollers.

Hi-5 played in the second game and made crucial triples and free throws to thwart the Ol'Aces, who absorbed their third straight loss. Sonny Lorio canned two of Hi-5's last three treys in the last four minutes of the game and then canned a pair of charities in the remaining 1.6 seconds of the match to hand his team the win.

Dave Sablan top-scored for Hi-5 with 35 points, including one of those treys in the home-stretch, turning a 74-71 lead to a 77-71 lead, with less than a minute left in the match.

Down by six, Ol'Aces faltered in their comeback bid

See DEPLETED on Page 38



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bacardi Mojito Hi-5's Dave Sablan goes for a fallaway jumper during their game against the Bud Light Lime Ol'Aces in the Budweiser caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

